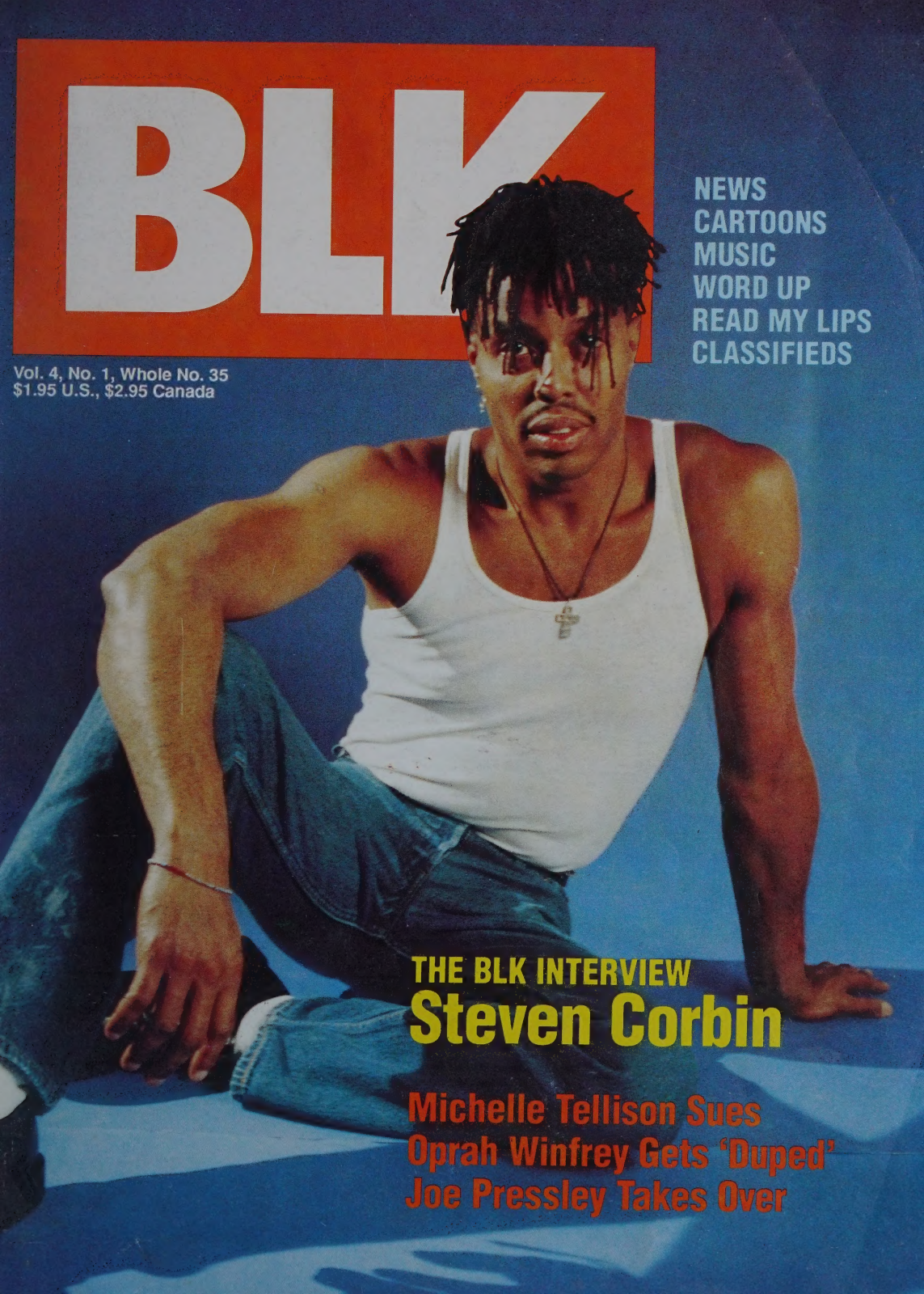


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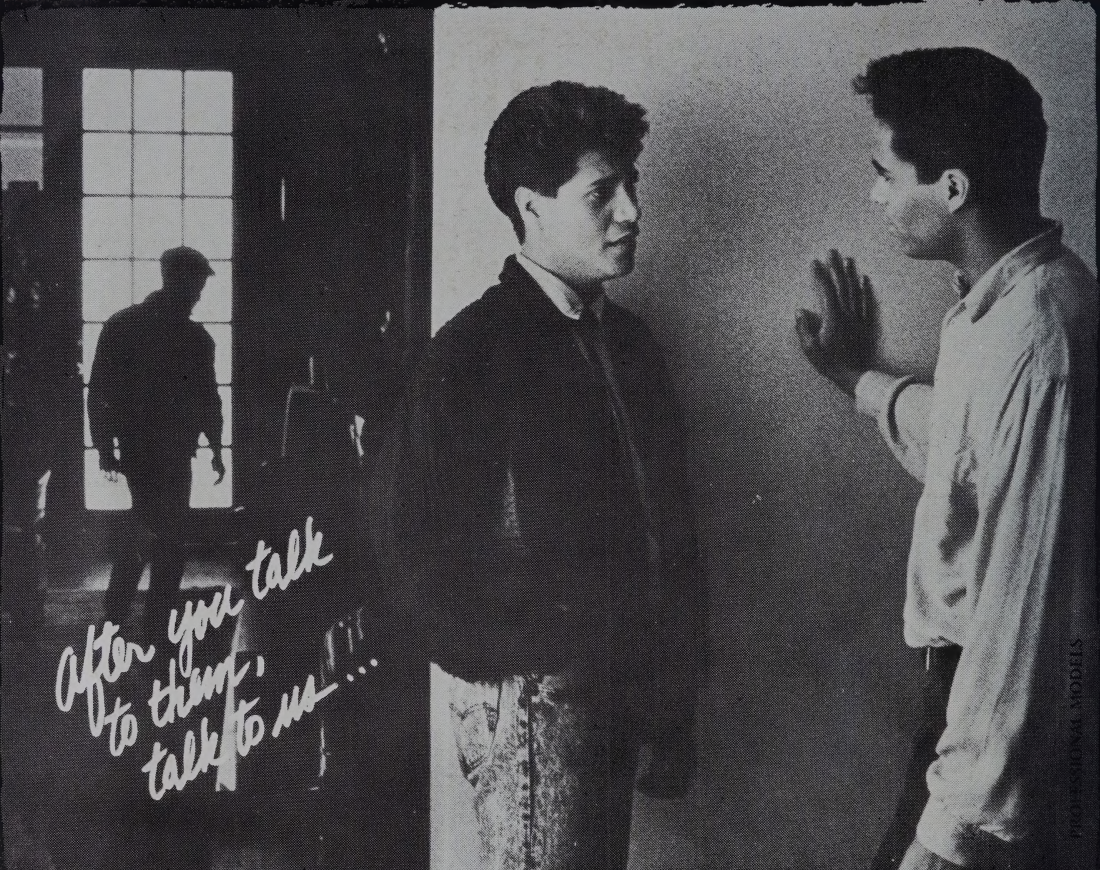


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WORD UP
READ MY LIPS
CLASSIFIEDS

Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 35
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THE BLK INTERVIEW **Steven Corbin**

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Oprah Winfrey Gets 'Duped'
Joe Pressley Takes Over**



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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEX IN THE BACK SEAT?

A police officer arrested a man for disorderly conduct outside Loretta's, a popular black gay bar in Atlanta.

In routine fashion, she put her prisoner in the rear of her patrol car beside another suspect already in custody. After the officer finished writing her report, she peered inside, and caught the two prisoners having sex.

She promptly charged both men with sodomy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FLORIDA-STYLE

While the nation has recovered from the arrest of Paul Reubens (né Pee Wee Herman) in SARASOTA, other entrapment-style practices across the Sunshine State are still raising eyebrows.

WEST PALM BEACH police, suffering a shortage of black narcotics officers, decided to wear blackface in order to make drug sales. But the scheme failed when no customers bought what the cops were selling.

BROWARD COUNTY Sheriff Nick Navarro is proud to take the cake for homophobia having acquired a hard-headed reputation for relentlessly raiding gay establishments. At least two lawsuits have been filed and 36 accounts of police brutality have been documented. Even the local chapter of the NAACP has complained about the overuse of police dogs on minorities.



Apple



IBM

But the ethics in government award goes to BROWARD COUNTY sheriff's deputy Jeff Willets and wife, Kathy, busted for prostitution, whose little black book might prove more scandalous and name more names than Kitty Kelly. The appropriately titled "vice" mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, Doug Danziger, who campaigned to shut down "adult" businesses, resigned amid speculation that he was among those named in the book.

IBM AND APPLE GO BLACK

There are dog people and cat people. Benz people and Beamer people. But some of the most fierce oneupsmanship is between IBM people and Apple people.

But the arch rivals, who recently announced a joint venture, have come to agree on something else as well.

In the Nov. 11, 1991 issue of *PC Week*, an ad touting Apple products uses a photograph showing a black athlete in mid-air, muscles agleaming.

A few pages later, an IBM ad also uses a photograph of a black athlete—this one from an angle few people ever get to enjoy in their lifetime. It is topped by the headline, "Why be content to run when you can fly?"

There was a time when Madison Avenue sold products by having smiling white women in bathing suits with their heads tilted slightly to the side lightly touch the products. But I like the new black homoeroticism much better.

BLK MAIL

WHO SCREWED (UP) JOE SIMMONS?

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the letters to the editor ["BLK Mail," August, 1991]. One that touched me most was the one written by a brother who had noticed that throughout the filming career of Joe Simmons only once had he been seen getting fucked in the ass by a black man. I've seen him clearly being fucked by white men. Sad but Joe is typical of many thousands of African American males and there is no screen to point out this behavior of the many. We who are black oriented always held the belief that many black bi and gay men put and maintain limitations on what they do sexually with other black men but have no limitations with white men. By the

way, there is a super hung brother who appears in a film called *Darkmen* and *Hammer*. He appears in the same films with blacks but only once in the same cast. I became very upset when once he and another brother were cast together but they never touched each other. Both were working on this one white boy making sure in changing positions that they made no contact. Sorry! All the cotton fields, antebellum homes, Sambo and Mr. Charlie came into view. I really would like others to comment on why so many black men are in this frame of mind. Also, very important is how many so called black heterosexual males are but closets in the images of Joe Simmons and whether or not the A-I-D-S is in the straight black community are not straight after all. I'm afraid we

might have a Joe Simmons crisis whereas these men are having their anuses enlarged with white dicks and returning to the black woman. Now the same men no doubt become very anti black faggot and become very upset if cruised by one.

Bob Stocks
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Editor:

First and foremost whomever your appointee is does not need their head examined, but the person that wrote that incredibly idiotic letter does. When I read that letter in the August 1991 issue of BLK all I could think was how could they let a letter of that magnitude of stupidity get published. Let me just say that I enjoy your magazine thoroughly and I along with I'm sure many other share this opinion. If the person who wrote that letter had took time out to review their record or even question their interest in the betterment of their education they wouldn't have not written that letter.

Instead of learning the facts they were so quick to call someone an Uncle Tom. To set the record straight, Joe Simmons has bent over for a brother as they put it in his porno films. The title of the film is called *Black Magic*. I am not trying to justify this one occasion as an excuse for Mr. Simmons for not doing it more than once. I am merely responding to the incorrect statement that was made. I quote, "In the 30 plus films I've seen Mr. Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a

white boy, yes several—but not a black man."

In closing, I'd like to say that I really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. I really wouldn't worry about losing this person as a reader because to be frank you really don't need people that idiotic reading your magazine who obviously are too dumb to comprehend it anyway. In the name of black minds and beauty I also bid you peace, love, good luck and high hopes. I also apologize for the stupidity of my fellow brother and as a former New Yorker I hope this has no bearing on us and we should pray for high hopes that their act comes together soon.

Kiburi Lacy
San Francisco, Calif.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES THOMAS

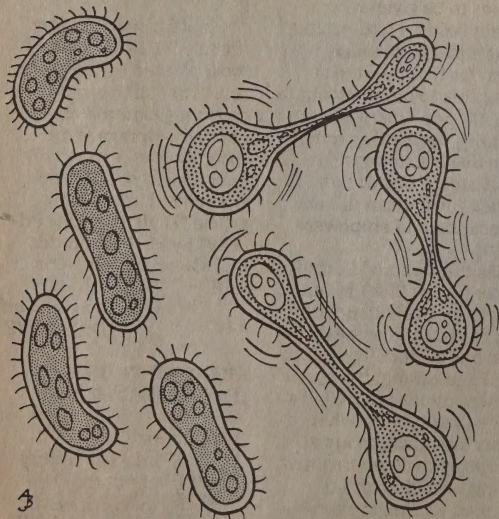
Dear Editor:

I recently read a letter by a James L. Thomas ["BLK Mail," August, 1991] who called the "gay lifestyle" an appalling abomination.

I wonder if this person has ever looked into personal ads, swinger magazines, taken a good look at today's society and I'd like him to know there are millions, upon millions of gay and bisexual people in the USA. I'd like to know what his problem seems to be? If he's so homophobic, why bother to read and write a letter of protest to BLK magazine?

It's 1992 Mr. Thomas let's wake up please, we are in the age of gay and human rights!

Eugene Clarrington
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Black gay publications evolve.

Dear Editor:

James L. Thomas writes, "For a country built on the slogan, 'In God We Trust,' I sometimes wonder what we are coming to."

First, he seems unaware that the slogan, which ironically was the same as that found on Nazi soldiers' belt buckles, was legislated onto our currency during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. The Founding Fathers were deists, not theists.

Second, he admits that "homosexuality is an abomination to God," which points the finger to the root of homophobia: organized Christian religion.

Warren A. Smith
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

This is an immediate response to Minority Business Association President James L. Thomas of Inglewood, Calif., who had the gall to write an ignorant letter to you opposing the issue of AB 101. I hope he reads this.

Well, Mr. Thomas, who the hell do you think you are? Has the Queen of Paradise Island died and left you her throne? Is it your time of the month? Inquiring black gay and lesbian minds would like to know. It's a crying shame that Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a significant stepping stone that would have allowed my California gay and lesbian peers the opportunity to rest a little easier. They'll remember his fucked up stance come the next election. Keep in your non-lubricated mind that anyone who seeks an office will seek the gay and lesbian vote. And now you're up to date, honey.

Furthermore, you're just pouting as if you've stained

your panties that [legislators] Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker supported AB 101. Take your wannabe fundamentalist ass back to your place of worship and learn some sensitivity. (Oh, I forgot, *real* men like you [sike] aren't supposed to be sensitive.) Wake up and sniff your panties because you are not the "T"!

A gay teenager is contemplating suicide this very moment and you have the nerve to criticize. I'm young, (21 years old), black and gay. I love black men, and you'll never have the power to take my love for black men away, sucka! I was a lonely gay teenager contemplating suicide, trying to deal with my emotionally and verbally abusive mother, but I survived. I held on to my dreams, I made it to manhood, despite the close-minded homophobia and heterosexism.

I'm thankful for many things, like the fact that here in Chicago, gay and lesbian taxpayers are protected under the law, it's called the Human Rights Ordinance, for your information, sweetheart. You probably don't know your dick from an inchworm and then you have the nerve to spread your stupid ignorance. If you ever come to Chicago trying to publicly denounce gay and lesbian citizens, I'll fuck you up on the spot. You're absolutely hopeless in understanding the love my black gay brothers have for each other. Some people *never* come out! (Hint, hint). Maybe you've been sipping too many strawberry daiquiris with Jawsan Kunjufu. I guess you've been gossiping with Haki Madhubuti too. If you're looking for a cat fight, you've found one here, your internalized homophobia is played out, my brother. You can take

your 8-track tape philosophy and shove it where you know you want to be penetrated.

Antonio Sharp
Chicago, Ill.

'HIGH RISK, LOW PRIORITY' DISSED AND APPLAUDED

Dear Editor:

In response to Michael Broder's article in the July 1991 issue of BLK, I am totally "through"; this article should be entitled "Michael Broder Turns a Totally Blind Eye to The Black Men's Xchange." BMX has provided the only effective culturally sensitive AIDS education and prevention program in the East Bay (which is part of the Bay area by the way) targeting black men who love men, and has been doing so for the past two years, reaching over 400 African-American (black) men. Because of BMX black men are now on AIDS Advisory Boards, involved with community planning councils etc., I think that credit needs to be given where credit is due. I understand that organizations have agendas that they are attempting to broaden, but in the African-American community, the BMX agenda remains the same and is consistent. We promote African-American (black) education and empowerment.

As the National Coordinator for the Black Men's Xchange, I am offended; the work that our organization has been doing in Oakland and around the country was totally ignored. We have already done what other organization are attempting to do or dream of doing, with little or no monies, and we are successful because of the love and commitment that we have for our people. Other

organizations are failing because they are not committed to, or understanding of, the needs of the black community. This love originates in the heart, and is directed at the black community, not the funding source.

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
BMX
Oakland, Calif.

The editor replies: BLK apologies to BMX and all the other organizations whose AIDS-related work in the black gay community was not mentioned in Michael Broder's article.

A more complete list of AIDS organizations doing work in the black community appears in the BLK List published in these pages periodically.

Dear Editor:

Two years ago while attending the NBGLLF in Atlanta I expressed my concerns about the lack of critical articles and coverage of black feminist issues in BLK.

I just finished reading the July '91 issue and was most pleased by the progress your staff has made in providing a more even-handed coverage of our communities. I especially appreciated reading the critical and informative article "High Risk, Low Priority" by Michael Broder. KUDOS to you and your staff.

Skye Ward
Berkeley, Calif.

FIVE-POINTS ON JEFFREY DAHMER

Dear Editor:

Mark Halle's story about the Dahmer incident in Milwaukee, while generally OK, has some serious flaws. As a person who has been

involved in the core of this unfolding story, and the Director of the Hate/ Crimes reporting, I would like to correct some points.

a) in my opinion it is an error to call Dahmer a "gay" man. He is homosexual and very confused, but to call him "gay" suggests that he accepts his sexuality ...it is clear that he didn't.

b) it is totally incorrect to state that Milwaukee is a city not known for its tolerance. Do we forget history so quickly? Wisconsin was the first state to include sexual orientation in its non discrimination policies 9 years ago. Milwaukee passed its own version as well. The religious community here helped make that happen. I will not say that there are not problems with racism and homophobia, but the leadership of this community is very open.

c) the phrase "homosexual overkill" was indeed used, however, after the Dahmer story broke, within less than 48 hours the media were NOT using the term because several of us in the leadership of the community confronted it and it was stopped, cold!

d) Milwaukee has one of the best informed media in America. All major media here have undergone "sensitivity training" sessions many years ago. The media has NOT "played up the murders as a logical extension of homosexual behavior," as you suggest. Rather, one talk show host, Mark Belling, who caters to the lunatic fringe right wing made that statement. No one else in the media here supported it. Quite to the contrary, the coverage and sensitivity by the media to gays and lesbians was exemplary!

e) And, while there certainly is homophobia and racism in the Milwaukee Police Department, it is

vital to know that all cadets of the past 5+ years have been exposed to some gay/lesbian sensitivity training. On top of that, the Command Staff, lead by Chief Phillip Arreola, had already been reaching out to the gay/lesbian community to implement cultural awareness training to all line officers and command staff before Dahmer.

Ralph F. Navarro
Milwaukee, Wis.

The editor replies: Ralph Navarro's hometown pride is commendable if somewhat overwrought, and his need to defend media which partially responded to the local lesbian and gay community's consciousness-raising is understandable. But Milwaukee's press set the initial tone for nationwide media coverage and subsequent damage control was inadequate. a) We agree that Dahmer doesn't accept his homosexuality. b) Milwaukee's record on gay issues does not, to us, obviate its mediocre record on racial issues. c) You cannot put the genie of media homophobia back in the bottle. d) and e) Glad to hear it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 35

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ON THE COVER: Steven Corbin. Photo by Bruce Hunt.

BLK PEOPLE

SAN FRANCISCO Rev. Jesse Jackson urged the lesbian and gay community to remain calm in response to the veto of California's AB101 anti-discrimination law. He spoke to several thousand at a Castro St. rally.

HOUSTON Martha Wash struck it up at Heaven Oct. 5.

NEW YORK Tito Antonio Davis appeared in concert at Outmusic Coffeehouse Dec. 15.

ATLANTA Darryl Walker was profiled in the Aug. 29 issue of Southern Voice.

LOS ANGELES Rev. George A. Stallings celebrated the inaugural mass for his new Imani Temple/Los Angeles Nov. 10.

CHICAGO Pangea and Clubhouse co-owners Robert Yeaworth and Sam Davis were named "Owners of the Year" by the Mr. Windy City competition.

PHOENIX Mr. Q stripped down to a G at GB's Rendezvous—and will probably do it again.

SARATOGA, Calif. Black Men's Xchange co-founder Cleo Manago led a "Confronting Racism" workshop at the 14th annual California Men's Conference. He also appeared with Dr. Hawkins Mitchell in Friday night's opening ceremonies.

WASHINGTON Stephen Bridges, 28, a volunteer with the Inner City AIDS Network who plays classical violin in his spare time, was profiled in the *Washington Blade* recently.

DALLAS Chris Dickerson, former Mr. America, Mr.

Universe and Mr. Olympia, was a guest poser and judge at the "Night of Pride" Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships in September. Dickerson has also made guest appearances at the Arcadia Championships in San Francisco and the Gay Games in Vancouver.

LOS ANGELES Marlon T. Riggs was presented with a "Distinguished Documentary Award" by the International Documentary Association Nov. 1. He was honored for *Color Adjustment*.

NEW YORK *Spin Cycle* by Aaron Burch, *Chasing the Moon* by Dawn Suggs and *Diotima* by Jack Waters were featured at the Fifth New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival in September.

AMHERST, Mass. Nuru-dafina Pili Abena performed at the second annual Northampton/Amherst Lesbian Festival recently.

CHICAGO Sydney Johnson was crowned Mr. Rainbow Revue in September.

HOUSTON World heavyweight champ George Foreman donated \$100,000 to the AIDS Foundation of Houston in September.

WASHINGTON Cindy Smith was elected president of the Black Lesbian Support Group at a meeting held Sept. 14.

NEW YORK Michael Cummings, whose African-inspired quilts fetch up to \$10,000 apiece—was profiled in the *New York Times*.

TACOMA Sgt. Perry Watkins was featured on BET's *Our Voices* in September.

SAN FRANCISCO Dr. Hawkins Mitchell completed a three-part series about his

Dream Lodge, a self-improvement workshop.

NEW YORK Connie Lofton appeared at Outmusic Coffeehouse Nov. 17.

PHILADELPHIA Rebecca Helem and Jon Ross were elected to the 15-member board of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride of Delaware Valley.

DALLAS Cody West took first place in the light heavyweight division at the North American Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships Sept. 20.

NEW YORK Sandra J. Lowe, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been named director of the Governor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

CHICAGO First-time author Kikki Baker was profiled in the *Advocate*. Her *In the Game* has just been

released by Naiad Press.

LONDON Whitney Houston made a surprise appearance at an AIDS march organized by the Brent HIV Centre.

LOS ANGELES Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Zachary have completed a mural on the west wall of the Minority AIDS Project. The project was commissioned by the Social and Public Art Resource Center.

SAN DIEGO Openly gay Stan Lewis has been appointed council representative by newly elected City Councilmember Valerie Stallings.

NEW YORK Gary Paul Wright appears at Outmusic Coffeehouse in January.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. E. Lloyd Napier and the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble staged *A Song for My Brother*.



"In the sixties it was the Chicago 7, in the seventies it was the Jackson 5, in the eighties it was the Frustaci 7, and in the ninties it's Nonoxynol 9."

ers last month.

HOUSTON Michelle Parkerson screened several of her documentaries at the Museum of Fine Arts in November.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Marjorie Hill spoke at Jewel's Catch One recently in an event organized by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

NEW YORK Gerideau displayed his female illusions at Sweetwater's in November.

DALLAS Jerome Palmer won the Ms. Butch Desert Moon contest in September.

ATLANTA Mayor Maynard Jackson withdrew an Honorary Citizenship award after he found out the woman to receive it had been a man before a 1974 sex change operation.

CHICAGO Essex Hemphill appeared with Alison Bechdel celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Gerber/Hart Library Oct. 25.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis performed at A Different Light Bookstore in December.

WASHINGTON Melvin Dixon, Essex Hemphill, Assotto Saint, Joseph Corman, Larry Ferguson, Steve Langley and Harry Lewis were among those honored at a reception sponsored by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Black and White Men Together/DC and the Encore Social Club.

NEW YORK Pepper La Beija hosted "A Night of Fabulous Fakes" at the Apollo Theater on Nov. 2.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. Lyle Ashton Harris was one of the participants in "Disputed Identities" a survey of photographs mounted at the California Museum of Photography.

LOS ANGELES Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens facilitated a workshop, "Healing Your Inner Child," in September.

WASHINGTON Dr. Ron Simmons was the guest of Leonard Green on Ch. 32's Talk TV Nov. 1.

PORTLAND, Ore. Clodie Wright, 60, was profiled in the Oct. issue of *Just Out*.

NEW YORK Cheryl Clarke and Donald Woods helped launch the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library with an evening of readings Oct. 23.

OAKLAND Corey Davis, a 22-year-old novice teacher was profiled in *San Francisco Examiner*.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan was honored by the *Los Angeles Sentinel* as one of the newspaper's "Community Service Honorees."

WASHINGTON Mandy Carter was recently named to the board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

SAN FRANCISCO Marilyn, who finds "the curve of her waist" her favorite part of a woman's body, appeared unclothed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *On Our Backs*.

SEATTLE Gwen Hall was named to the Interim Coordinating Committee of the National March on Washington.

WASHINGTON Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr., Penn State's assistant director of religious affairs, urges black churches to drop moral judgements about PWAs and become more involved in prevention. "Black churches can learn from the gay community's response in this area," he said.

LOS ANGELES Monica Palacios takes her show, *Latin Lezbo Comic* to the Celebration Theatre through Jan. 5.

MIAMI John Minnis, winner of \$100,000 in the Star

Search '91 "Best Male Vocalist" competition, performed at Uncle Charlie's Oct. 11.

NEW YORK DiAna DiAna and Dr. Bambi Sumpter were the subject of a video shown at the Center in November.

SAN FRANCISCO Wayne Corbitt performed in *Blackbirds Boogie* at Josie's in October and at their New Lagton Arts in November.

NEW YORK Alice Walker read from her new book of poems, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, at the 92nd St. Y's Poetry Center Oct. 7.

LOS ANGELES Bobby Smith, office manager for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Clinic, was profiled in the Sept./Oct. *AHF Caregiver*.

CHICAGO Sgt. Perry Watkins, who recently won his battle with the U.S. Army after being dismissed because he was gay, spoke at the Rodde Center Oct. 13.

SACRAMENTO Christine Adams-Tripp, Phill Wilson and Wendell Carmichael were named to serve on a HIV Anti-Discrimination Task Force formed by California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

SAN FRANCISCO Gregory Adams, an AIDS educator, fundraiser and erotic movie star, was honored by the Shanti Project at a dinner and ceremony Oct. 3.

LOS ANGELES Jennifer Holliday performed Dec. 7 at Probe's Anniversary Party.

WASHINGTON After a three-year search, Rev. David G. Morrow has been picked to succeed Dr. James Tinney as head of Faith Temple.

LOS ANGELES Larry Pickens, lover of L.A. School Boardmember Jeff Horton, had his own public coming out in a well-done interview

in the *Los Angeles Times*.

OAKLAND Dr. Germán Maisonet spoke at Providence Hospital Oct. 25 on "African-American Men Living in the Age of AIDS." His talk was sponsored by the African-American AIDS, Support-Services and Survival Institute.

NEW YORK Choreographer David Rousseve was profiled both in the *Washington Blade* and in the *Advocate* recently.

PHILADELPHIA Horace Godwin co-facilitated a retreat, "Personal Power for the Gay '90s: A Weekend Retreat in the Poconos" Sept. 27-29.

WASHINGTON Venus Thrash and Stuart Adams discussed images of black lesbians and gay men in the straight black press with Barry Murray, editor of the *Capitol Spotlight* and Deborah Tang, director of news and public affairs for BET at a panel discussion Sept. 9. The meeting was hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, GLAAD/DC and moderated by Sabrina Sojourner.

SAN DIEGO Terri Mason was featured in a concert of his own works at First Unitarian Church Nov. 16. Also on the program were Preston Rawlings, Regina Anderson, Deborah McClelland and Marietta Clewis.

LOS ANGELES Carlton Wilborn performed in Alan Bowne's *Beirut* in September.

PORTLAND La Tricia Ransom and Milo were featured in a coming out article in the October issue of *Just Out*.

LOS ANGELES Comedienne Karen Williams was the Friday night M.C. at the second annual Women's Fun Festival Sept. 20-22. She was also profiled in the *Advocate* recently.

BLK

Newsmagazine for the black lesbian and gay community

In publication since December 1988

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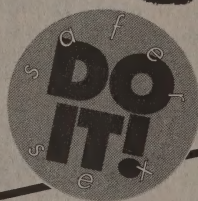
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I JUST WANT A GOOD TIME.

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Michelle Tellison had endured enough. Cerebral Palsy had left her in need of a wheel chair for most of her life. In 1980, Tellison began using MetroLift, a special program of Houston's Metro Transit System for handicapped or disabled people providing curb-to-curb service.

In 1985, Tellison began to have problems with drivers for the transit system—nationally considered one of the worst in the country in terms of service—

another company, Eagle Paratransit.

Tellison said the judge got "a real earful," as Frye described Tellison's experiences.

"Specifically, Michelle is being preached religion, and church, and interpretation of sin, and the Bible, by employees of a tax-supported agency. That tax-supported agency, supported by one percent of your eight-percent sales tax, is Metro. She is being told what she can and cannot read. She is being asked

Black Lesbian Seeks \$10 Million in Damages from City Transit System

after publishing an article that called for the formation of a support group for disabled lesbians and gay men.

Tellison had difficulties with drivers taking her to, or picking her up from Houston women's bars. The drivers would openly make comments about lesbians and sex, threatening to curtail service for her because of ticketing irregularities, and one time driving off and leaving her stranded after she had fallen out of her wheelchair.

This abuse led to Houston attorney Phyllis Frye filing suit against the Metro Transit System for \$10,000 in Harris County State District Court. Twenty-nine incidents were described in the lawsuit.

After the third court room hearing, Frye refilled the discrimination suit, asking for damages of \$10,000,000, after the harassment continued despite an order from the judge prohibiting it. Frye, a long-time champion for lesbian and gay legal issues, refused to be daunted after transit officials were unable to provide positive identification in naming the drivers, delaying the trial. Part of the difficulty as well was proving to the judge that the harassment was legally definable

questions or subjected to comments about sex, sexuality, sexual partners and desires to have sex. All of

this goes on while she is a captive passenger on the MetroLift vans."

After Tellison discovered her name on a list of clients of MetroLift to be singled out for harassment, Frye went back into court to obtain photos of the drivers involved, who routinely covered up their name badges to prevent being identified.

The injunction prohibited Metro—and all its contractors—from subjecting her to obscene or rude remarks in conversation; from restricting her choice of reading material; from harassing her in regard to the lawsuit; handling her wheelchair in anything other than a normal manner; from obscuring their identification; and required that they follow company policy in providing service and collecting fares, regardless of where she

chooses to go, or her lifestyle.

"She ought to be treated like anyone else," said Judge David West of the 269th District Court.

Tellison works for a United Way agency. Metro



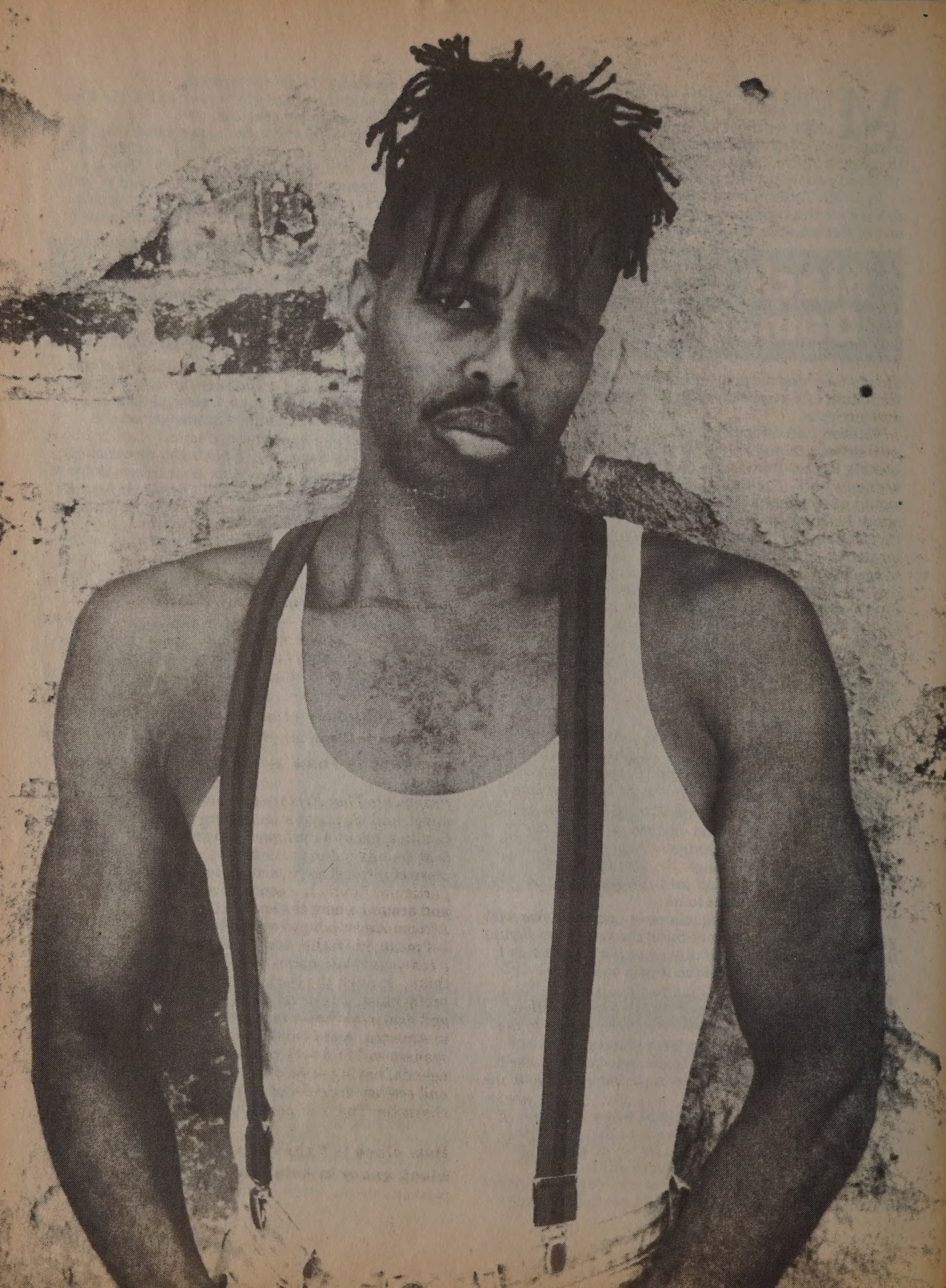
BY MARK HAILE

as discrimination based on being physically handicapped, which is illegal in Texas, and not as a result of her being gay, which is not a protected class in that state.

Frye retorted, that if her client was not handicapped, she "wouldn't have been in this position."

Judge Jack O'Neill ruled in favor of Tellison in June of 1988, after Metro lawyers argued they weren't liable for the behavior of the MetroLift drivers because the van service had been contracted out to

Transit continues to insist that no harassment ever took place. Metro's lawyer Dennis Gardner was quoted after the trial as having said, "It sounds to me we're being ordered to keep from doing what we weren't doing anyway. There's nothing inconsistent between that order and our customary policy, so I would say it will have no impact." Metro attorneys were also unsuccessful in getting a gag order placed on the case, sought due to the substantial local publicity the suit was attracting.



THE BLK INTERVIEW

STEVEN CORBIN

by Larry Duplechan

*I first became aware of Steven Corbin in 1989, when a friend recommended Corbin's first novel, **No Easy Place To Be**, in response to my oft-repeated complaint of the lamentable dearth of fiction by black gay male writers. Corbin's story of a close-knit, talented, but troubled black family set during the Harlem Renaissance, involved and moved me, and the dust jacket photograph of the handsome author intrigued me. At the same time, I simmered with professional jealousy over the novel's cross-over success (which success has eluded my own work) and Corbin's relative financial good fortune (I'd heard through the publishing grapevine that Corbin's advance for his first novel had been more than double what I'd received for my third).*

*I met Steven in November of 1990, when we both appeared on a panel of black male writers for the Los Angeles Afro-American Museum. Struck by his deep-chested, tight-T-shirted physique, 100-watt smile and wide-open personality, coupled with his professed admiration for my second novel, **Blackbird**, I found Steven Corbin impossible to dislike, his relative success notwithstanding. At the end of the panel, we exchanged telephone numbers and promised to keep in touch—a Los Angeles tradition—but, in another L.A. tradition, we didn't.*

We crossed paths again nearly a year later, in October of 1991, at the Black Gay Men's Retreat sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. There, in an atmosphere of (for me, at least) unprecedented openness and sharing in a group of 30 black gay men, Steven and I again expressed our mutual admiration and our desire to pursue a friendship. We have since exchanged countless telephone answering machine messages, one L.A. version of pursuing a friendship.

When I heard BLK was planning an interview with Steven Corbin, I requested the assignment and Steven readily accepted. I found it encouraging that when I called Steven to set a date for the interview, we conversed for nearly an hour, just chatting.

Jersey City born, Steven ("That's Steven, with a VEE," he told me, never Steve) Corbin moved to Los Angeles in 1975 to attend USC's film school, intending to become a screen writer and film maker. The realization that the sort of film he longed to make would likely never be produced in Hollywood's movie industry, and his better-late-than never discovery of black novelists such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and especially James Baldwin, led him to fiction writing.

*His first novel, **No Easy Place To Be** was published by Simon and Shuster, to critical acclaim and sufficient sales to make him a relative rarity—a novelist without a day job after only one novel. His second novel, **Fragments That Remain**, will be published this spring by London's GMP.*

I interviewed Steven on a crisp, unusually clear Sunday afternoon, in the sparsely furnished living room of his home, half of a 1910 vintage house-cum-duplex in the Los Feliz area. The occasional tumbleweed of dog hair skittered across the hardwood floor, courtesy of Sebastian, a large German shepherd given to sniffing at my tape recorder and crotch. Steven sprawled in a large armchair, booted feet up on an ottoman, eyes at half mast, having been awake for some thirty straight hours due to a 10 p.m.-to-10 a.m. shift working the coat room at an all-night underwear party at the Probe. Notwithstanding his allegation that he looked "like shit," my subject looked just fine, thank you, in a sleepy, dishevelled sort of way and despite his weariness, proved more articulate and interesting than most mortals at their very best, gesturing expressively with his hands, often tugging at his headful of dreads while considering a question.

About your upcoming novel, *Fragments That Remain*: tell me what you want BLK's reading audience to know about this book.

Fragments That Remain is a complex and layered novel, and it's about a lot of things: it's about families, about a dysfunctional family (and I know that sounds redundant). But I think what would be more of interest to BLK readers is that, in this particular family the son who is the pivotal character and around whom the entire story is told, is an African-American gay man who, among other things—I mean, his father is dying—he's also coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white lover. So, I think, through the character of Schuyler, my protagonist, this novel, in part, examines and probes and explores what it means to grow up a black queer in America. And I think that's something BLK readers will find very relevant in terms of their own agenda, having some of our collective anguish and joy and ecstasy articulated through this particular character. That's in part what I was trying to do.

How close is Schuyler's experience as a black queer in America to yours?

Close in some ways and not so close in others. I think, in terms of experiencing racism, in all forms—in terms of growing up in a certain culture, and dealing with it also on a more painful level in the gay community, is an experience which is very similar to mine. So I know that I use a lot of my own reactions, experiences, contemplations, through this character.

Tell me about your experience of racism in the gay community.

Well, the gay community, as far as I see it, is sort of a microcosm of the larger society which has bred it. And I have dealt with a lot of pain in dealing with racism in the gay community, on many levels. On personal levels, in terms of dating white guys, dating non-black people in the gay community, and becoming aware of how some attitudes are still pretty...unsophisticated, for lack of a better word. For instance, some white guys that I have dated, a lot of white guys that I've met, especially in this town [Los Angeles], I've felt, in large part, were going out with me as a black man for all the wrong reasons. That's another one of the things I'm dealing with in *Fragments*. Not all the wrong reasons, but certainly some of those reasons.

What are some of the wrong reasons for dating a black man?

In terms of having their own stereotypical ideas about who black men are: their prowess, their virility, their backgrounds. Certain assumptions that are made about you because you are black—

Such as?

Well—and this really sounds far-fetched, but I've heard stuff like this: "I would imagine that you were raised without a father in the house, because most black women, statistically, raise their children that way, in a fatherless home." Stuff like that. Or, I had a white guy tell me once that he'd always thought that every black person, in terms of physical attraction, liked any white person they could get, because that was some kind of status symbol. Like, if you could attain *this*, then you're sort of special.

Do you think that particular stereotype is entirely unfounded?

No, it's not entirely unfounded. But, I think what's disturbing about it is to make the assumption which is based on a stereotype. And, ironically enough, my parents separated when I was about 11, so half of my life I was raised in a fatherless home. But still...

Some of the other racism we deal with in the gay community, that I especially experience—because I'm a political activist—is in terms of organizations. Again, under the larger umbrella of the gay

community, there is a lot of dissension. And a lot of it is racist. And you'll hear things go down in ACT-UP that are racist, in a very subtle way. Like, a black woman might get up and talk about AIDS in the black community. And, of course, blacks and Latinos are the people who are getting AIDS now, those numbers are soaring. Ten white guys get up and walk out of the meeting.

Meaning they just didn't give a fuck?

They didn't want to hear that. It's not their problem. Let those black people get their own shit together, that's not our concern.

Last week, we were voting on a demonstration which is coming up...which coincides with the weekend of Oakland [the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and the National Cultural Gathering and Retreat]. And so, people were making comments on the floor that the demonstration coincides with that, and maybe black people and other people of color would want to attend. And you could hear people in the room going [he heaves a big sigh, rolls his eyes upward]. That's racist to me.

Which is one of the reasons it's really important for me to be a member of something like ACT-UP, because it's important, I think for us to be visible in organizations such as ACT-UP. So there's that kind of racism.

There's the racism of quiet quotas. Blacks couldn't get into a club after a certain number were in. You got hassled, you got asked for two or three pieces of I.D. Look at our [gay] literature, look at our magazines, our newsletters. Who represents the gay community on the cover of *Edge* every time you look at it, or the cover of *Frontiers*. It's never us. And they call themselves, presumptuously enough, the nation's leading gay magazine. And that's an insult to us and lesbians, as well. They don't deal with any women's issues, they don't deal with any lesbian issues.

Frontiers, you're talking about?

Frontiers and *Edge*. *Frontiers*, for instance, will have Latino boys on the cover, but who knows they're Latino? They're the most Caucasoid looking, non-threatening, non-swarthy Latino men they could find. And there's something wrong with that.

My brother, who is not gay, but is, obviously, black, once said something to me that's always stuck with me. He said he has trouble dealing with most white men, because white men act as if the world belongs to them.

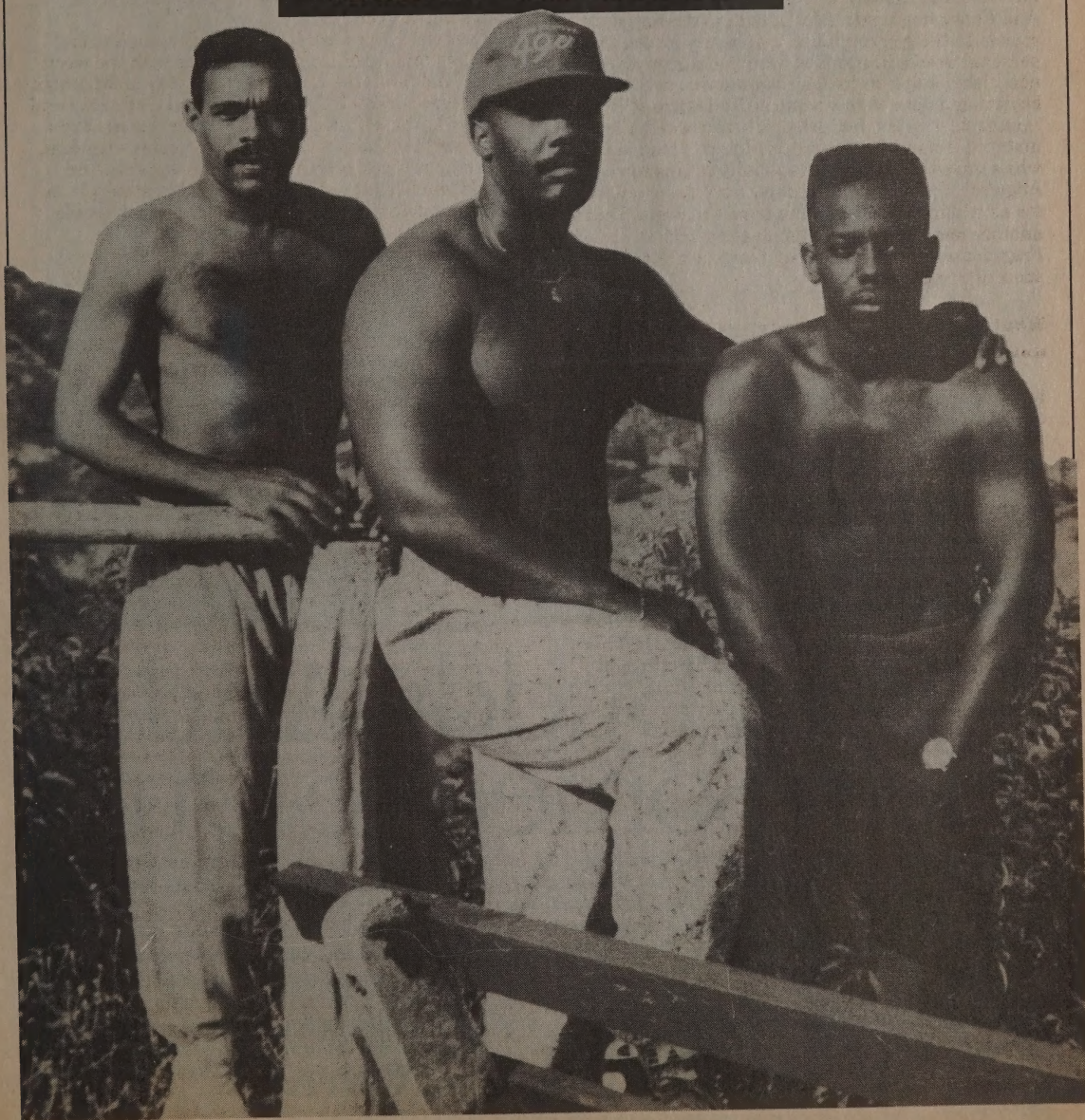
Absolutely.

And I pointed out to him that, in fact, it does, on a lot of levels. And since, as you've said,

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the gay community is a microcosm of the community at large, what do you see as our plan of action as people of color, as women, as women of color, as anyone who's not white, male, hung, good looking and built, in what is basically a subculture that is created by, for and about white men?

In terms of remedying that? I think we need a little bit of sharing. We just have to recognize and acknowledge that there are other gay people in the gay community aside from white men. And be inclusive of everybody of color and women, who are substantial people, who are making contributions toward the same cause, the same goal.

One of the things that really struck me when I came to L.A. from New York was how segregated the gay community was out here. In New York, everyone partied together. Little did I know that that was going to be the pattern for what I'd see later on, politically and socially and so forth. So I think one of the ways in which we can remedy this is to allow women and so-called minorities to be more represented in the gay community overall. There's responsibility on both parts, but especially on the part of white men, because they are the ones who are the power structure.

So how do we get the white boys to let us play in what is basically their yard?

I don't know how we get to do that. I kind of know what we need to do, but how we're going to arrive at that is really sort of beyond me. Especially in regards to white men. They don't give up nothin'.

Historically.

Historically. They ain't give up shit! And everything you get you have to fight for. And that's a really good question. Because really, what we're trying to say to them is—well, let's take just one little slice of it: the cover of *Frontiers*, and say, "How about you white boys giving the cover, at least half the year to men of color, and women." How about the movers and shakers in this community who happen to be lesbians? Some of the most impressive people in ACT-UP are women. And so, I would like to see more of that. I don't know that I really have the answers. But they have to relinquish a little bit of the power, and share that, and let the voices of people of color come through.

Just to play devil's advocate a bit here, why should they? Or rather, why would they?

I don't think they would. Why should they is another question. We know why they should, but why would they, is almost rhetorical.

Because the fact is, as I've said, the world does belong to those white guys, and since they're gay white guys, and so in a position where they can't be on top of the heap in the larger society—

They'll rule the smaller fish bowl. That's what AB-101 was all about. That's what the whole gay movement was all about for me. White guys were saying, "I've grown up white and male in America. And you're gonna discriminate against me because of my sexuality?" Because it's just unheard of to deny them anything.

Because they're raised to be king of the hill and suddenly, they're being treated like niggers.

Exactly. "We're not going to be the niggers" is what they're saying. And they don't really look to recruit other people. You go to these demonstrations, everybody's white, for the most part.

Do you think that's by design?

I think it's just sub-consciously, maybe consciously exclusionary. It's like, "We can do this ourselves. We don't care to have your input." And even if that's not the message that's really being transmitted, it's the one that's being interpreted. So I'm not trying to just dump it all on them; but I think that's how a lot of black people feel.

How did you go from the USC film school, intending to be a screen writer, to becoming a novelist?

I had been so entrenched in my [film] education, I wasn't given the opportunity to read any real literature. So I started reading all this fiction, and specifically black fiction. I had never read *Native Son*, I'd never read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. I'd talked to white kids at USC who had read that in high school. I'd never read James Baldwin's *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

That amazes me.

It's amazing to me, too. What happened was, I was reading literature generally, and concentrating on black literature...and the more I was reading, the more I understood, or at least thought, that I could possibly do this. Write novels. It seemed an attractive art form. You can kind of be an artist. Then, something profound happened. I don't say that to sound melodramatic, but it really was profound: I read James Baldwin's *Just Above My Head*. My favorite Baldwin novel.

Mine, too.

I'm glad you share that with me. And then I said, God damn! And I worked my way back: *Giovanni's Room*, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And I thought, This man is a black queer, and he's saying "I'm a black queer, and these are my stories and fuck you!" And I thought, that speaks to my anger, speaks to my rage, as both a black and queer man. And he's getting away with that! This man has published how many fuckin' novels and plays and essays. And I said, Hmmm. When I was reading Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Richard Wright and all those other greats, those works said to me, "You can do this." Baldwin's work said, "You *must* do this."

So it would be safe to say that Baldwin is a hero of yours.

Oh, absolutely. I adore him, and adore his work.

Do we have a James Baldwin now?

No.

Are you hoping to be that?

You know, to say that I hope to be that would be really presumptuous on my part. Because I don't really think there will be another Baldwin.

Really?

No, because I'm thinking of the whole, total man. The novelist, the playwright—not just the prolificacy, but



the different forms he worked in as a writer—essays, and really top-notch in everything he did. Here's a man who's written in all these different forms. Then, also, had his own political activist agenda. And what makes him even more unique is that he was caught up in a time, during the 60's, when his career was sort of parallel to what was happening in the civil rights movement. And he became a voice for black people, in many ways. Our shit was articulated through his work. Which is not to say that he was *the* spokesman for us, but he was certainly one of the most visible and the most heard.

If I could be, an eighth of what Baldwin was... because to me he is so mythical in his proportions. He was certainly the best black writer America ever produced. Which is interesting, because he and Langston Hughes are the two greatest black writers and they were both queers. I find that very interesting, but no surprise.

I would hope to have a career as prolific as his. And that's really all I can say about that because I don't think I could ever be...[shrugs]

Have you ever considered going back to film, becoming a screenwriter or film maker.

No, but anything's possible. I never rule anything out. But I'm very concentrated on my work as a fiction writer. I think I'm a writer of some talent; I think I'm a good writer; I think I fail; I think I pass sometimes. But I would someday like to be a great writer, if that's possible. But I know it's going to take everything I've got to do that. So who knows what could happen later on? But it would have to be something that really speaks to me, here [points to his heart]. Like with Madonna doing [a film of] *Giovanni's Room* —

Really? I hadn't heard that.

She talked about it in the *Advocate*. And she was talking about the fact that they hadn't hired any writers. Now, something like that, I would *love* to do. I would love to work with someone else on something like that.

One last little Baldwin thing: you wrote in the *Advocate* something to the effect that American society only allows one prominent black novelist per generation. You've already said you don't think we've got a Baldwin now. Do you see anyone as being the black male writer of our generation; and if so, who might that be?

No, I don't think we have one. And that was part of what I was saying in that article in the *Advocate*.

That, first of all, it's insulting in and of itself to allow us *one*, as it were.

Do we even have our one?

No, we don't even have that *one*. What's even more insulting is that Baldwin's place hasn't even been filled. This man died in 1987. James Baldwin's been dead four years. Now, what has happened since then is that Charles Johnson went on to win the National Book Award for *Middle Passage*. And he's the first black man to win it since Ralph Ellison was awarded it for *Invisible Man*. James Baldwin was scheduled to win it the year after Ellison for *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And the judges said—

Not two in a row?

Not two in a row! But I must also say that I do see a burgeoning of black male writers out there, in unprecedented numbers. Queer and everything else. And I think that's true of black writers generally, but certainly for black men. So, I'll take what I can get, know what I mean? And whoever's going to even attempt to fill Baldwin's shoes, I hope that there's ten or 20. And perhaps we'll be among them, as queer, black male writers. You or me or Randall Kenan or Melvin Dixon, or whomever.

You have, in fact, finished yet another novel.

Yes.

And do we want to say anything about that?

Yeah, we can. This novel, my third novel, was the easiest novel to write. And it was the most difficult to write. It is the most autobiographical of all of my novels. The first novel is very, very minimally autobiographical. The second novel is maybe 40 percent autobiographical. The third novel is a lot more so, because it's an AIDS novel which chronicles the ill-fated relationship of two star-crossed lovers, who fall in love after sort of looking for each other for years. And then one of them gets sick. So, they have everything to live for, in terms of each other and their careers. And their lives are just blown out of the water by the fact that one of them gets AIDS. This story is based on my own experience with my late lover.

It was a novel I had to write. I couldn't write anything else until I wrote this. I recognize it as a brick wall I had to break through. It acted as a catharsis, as therapy, as a way of having a monologue about the most tragic thing ever to happen in my life. Nineteen-ninety-one was a year of mourning for me, for the most part; my lover died in October of 90, and from that point on, up until damn near three-quarters of 1991, I was in deep mourning. And in writing the novel, there were many scenes, as you can imagine, where I had to really call up a lot of stuff, where I would literally be there, sitting at my

desk, unable to see the words, because I was blinded by tears. I know that sounds melodramatic, but it's true. But when I finished, I realized that when I took it out of here [indicates his heart], and put it on some paper, that was like the beginning of the end of the horrible part of the healing. I grieved less after I wrote it. And it seemed like things were really beginning to lift, as I'd been wanting them to lift for months. I was tired of crying, I was tired of hurting, tired of missing him. I'm not used to being a perpetually depressed person, just wallowing in depression. I wasn't working, I wasn't writing, I wasn't teaching. I needed that time to heal myself. Lick my wounds.

So, I'm most proud of that novel—it's called *One Hundred Days From Now*, because—I call it a wartime novel. It has a lot of different levels of conflict and dynamic, because one of the lovers is black and one is Latino, and he was in the closet for 20 years and he's just coming out of his closetedness; and his family doesn't even know he's gay, and they're lying to his friends about his having leukemia. There's all these different things.

Do you have a publisher for it?

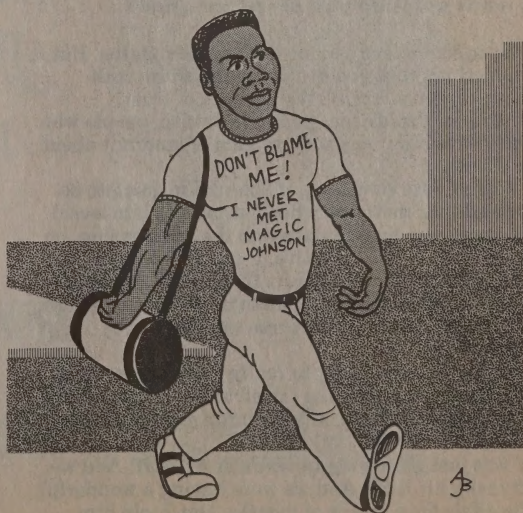
No, we're still shopping it.

On the general subject of AIDS: you're HIV positive.

Yes. How'd you know that?

You mentioned it at the Black Gay Men's Retreat.

I don't remember discussing my HIV status there.



You didn't discuss it; you sort of dropped it at one of the big pow-wow type gatherings, where one of the subjects was about romances between HIV positive and negative. What bearing does your HIV status have on your work: either what you write, or how fast you feel you have to write it or anything like that? I ask because, a couple of years back, Mark Thompson was telling me about the umpteen projects he was working on, all at once. And I said, Why are you doing all this at one time? And he said, I'm HIV positive, I don't have forever.

That's Paul Monette's thing, too. I don't know if that's my thing. I certainly hope to leave a good body of work, whenever I die, for whatever reason I die. But I really deal with my HIV status, for the most part, in a very—I have a life to live. I have a career. I have work to do. And I'm not saying that in the sense of "I have to get these books out now because next week I might be symptomatic," because I'm not symptomatic. I have high T-cells, I'm healthier than I've ever been. So I don't feel that same immediacy as, say, Paul Monette. Which is a big reason for his prolificacy. But for me, I don't really use that as an impetus to get all this work out all of a sudden.

I don't necessarily have to die from this—anything can happen. And I'm not even going to project that far into the future. I'm just going to take this a day at a time, live my life, try to find me a husband, settle down and have some kids, you know? And write my fuckin' books. And go about my business.

When you're seeing someone, romantically, at what point do you drop that shoe?

It depends. I'm not ashamed of my HIV status. But it is something that you don't run and share with people. Because I think it's an issue of trust, sometimes. People can get kind of weird, people who might have kids, say, and are kind of ignorant about the illness.

When I date somebody, if I think I'm going to be involved—for instance, when Carlos [his late lover] and I were dating, ten days into the relationship, he told me he was HIV positive. I was also positive at the time, but I didn't tell him then, because I didn't feel the need to. Because I wasn't even that *into* him. So I did tell him later on, three weeks into the relationship.

If I feel like I'm going to really, really be involved with somebody, I feel like I need to tell them within the first month. Especially if there's going to be sex involved.

I was just dating a guy, who's in ACT-UP. And we had really hit it off. And we were having a wonderful little affair for a couple of months. But I told him

about my HIV status about two weeks into it. And I was absolutely shattered. We were in the Beverly Center when I told him—we were going to a movie and we had time to kill. He just started crying. He'd told me he was an emotional person. But when he cried, it also told me how much he cared for me. Because, what the discussion was about was that he had basically decided in his mind that we were going to be boyfriends. So he was devastated. He's a foreigner, he's from India, he's been in this country three years. And despite his AIDS activism, he's AIDS-phobic. And was dealing with his fear on two major levels. Number one, the possibility of being infected himself. But more than that, losing me.

And that's why he couldn't allow himself to get involved. And it was not an unwise decision. I tried very hard not to be judgmental about the irrationality of his fear, especially as an AIDS activist. But I also understood. Because that is some pain I wouldn't wish on anybody.

Just another reality of your HIV life. Dating in the '90s.

On the subject of HIV in the Nineties, let's talk Magic Johnson for a moment, shall we?

Well, let me just say that I feel for Magic Johnson like I feel for anybody who's dealing with the virus. The way in which all this support has galvanized around the fact that he had been diagnosed is not his fault. He is a sports hero. He is a god by the definition of Western society. And we all know that they celebrate AIDS cases, more often than not, who are heterosexuals: the Kimberly Bergalises, the Ryan Whites. Now, that's a double-edged sword, because we do have a great deal of support, as I said, galvanizing around these issues, driving the point home a little bit more. But, it's also their way of saying, "That faggot disease has smeared, or tainted poor Kimberly Bergalis, poor Ryan White, poor Magic Johnson. Those fags, look what they did. Now their shit has spread to him, or her."

But the other side of that coin is, people smell their fuckin' coffee. And they realize, this is not, as we've been saying for ten fuckin' years, this is not a fag disease, Honey! A virus is a virus, okay?

So I had mixed feelings. On one hand, I thought: was just terrible to hear that about Magic Johnson. But incredibly courageous, and honest, for him to do what he did. Because he didn't have to do that. He could have kept it a totally private issue. And he could have decided he wasn't going to do shit about in terms of his political activism or getting involved he didn't have to do that. And he doesn't have to do any more or any less than anybody else because he's a public figure.

But what maddened me, of course, and angered me, and totally pissed me off, was how the world treated him, as if he was the first person to be diagnosed with HIV. Oh, poor Magic! And



FEBRUARY 29 **SADIE MAE HAWKINS DAY**
SATURDAY WITH MARRIN' SAM

MARCH 7 **MARDI GRAS**
SATURDAY PARTY & PARADE

MARCH 30 **DIVA'S BASH**
MONDAY ALL THE DIVA'S COME OUT TONIGHT

MARCH 31 **BUTCH BASH & KARAOKE PARTY**
TUESDAY ARE YOU BUTCH ENOUGH

APRIL 1 **TRASH DISCO B.V.D. FINALS**
WEDNESDAY WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR B.V.D.S

APRIL 2 **MR & MS CATCH ONE PAGEANT**
THURSDAY YOU PICK THE BEST OF OUR GUYS AND GALS

APRIL 3 **PARTY ANIMAL NIGHT**
FRIDAY COME STOMP & GET BUCK WILD ALL NIGHT

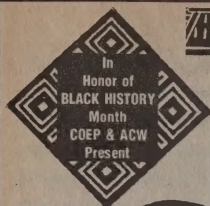
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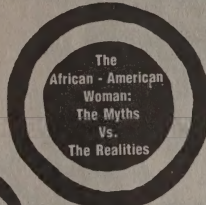
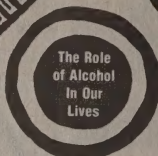
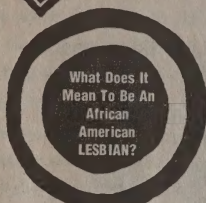
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Women's Calendar of Events for FEBRUARY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT	 THE CENTER L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	SAVE THE DATE: 5th Annual June Swoon June 14th 3 - 6 pm			For More Information Call COEP (213) 957 - 3081	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19720 Nordoff (NW corner of Corbin) Northridge Upstairs in World of Dance
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	NEW RAP GROUP!! "Over 35" GLCSC 1213 N. Highland # 108 7:30 - 9 pm	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Writing About Love Terry Wolverton 7 - 9 pm "About Lesbians of Color & Their Lesbian Friends" 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 Santa Monica Bl.	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Coming Out" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW 1147 S. Alvarado \$20 for 4 - week series	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "For Women of Color Only" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Singles" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Uribe Room	Valentine Women's Dinner & Dance ♥ ♥ "Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Lesbian Forum Black Lesbians in Politics A New Force 11 am - 2 pm Black History & Awards Program 7 - 10 pm Lesbian Mothers & Their Children 12 - 2 pm	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites: 8 - week writing workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Open Topic Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender \$50 Forgiveness: Opening Doors For A New Future Norma Cappello, MFCC 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	"Relationships" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Uribe Room	"Dut On Tuesday" Television Series 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	"Wellness Project: Eroticizing Safer Sex For Black Lesbians" Mary Henderson 7 - 9 pm Queer Rites Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "Racism" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm	"Wellness Project: Feminist Perspectives On Addictions" Nan Van Den Bergh, PhD 7:30 - 9 pm Ravenous Readers "The Bluest Eye" 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	Communication With Your Partner Dr. Louise Mebane Dr. Lynne Peterson 7 - 9:30 pm "Dating Skills" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wilde Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Uribe Room	"Women In Love" Film & Discussion Dr. Sylvia Rhue 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT: 7051 SANTA MONICA BL. 213 • 957 • 3081

muthafuckahs have been dying for ten years and where the fuck were you people!

My third novel, *One Hundred Days From Now*, I'm dedicating it to everybody I've known personally who has died of AIDS. And the list is ever growing. One week alone, I had to add three names to the dedication page. Three names! So, we're in this together. And it's scary, the level of ignorance, because that's what's going to abet the disease, help it spread.

Do you think Magic Johnson is going to do anybody any good?

I think yes, in some ways. And it may not be the hands-on, concrete results of what organizations are doing or what President Bush might be doing now, or health organizations. One of the most important things that Magic Johnson's diagnosis is doing, I feel, is that it is educating people. It is really waking people up. It's almost as if he were a divinely chosen person, picked to be the next example of who AIDS can happen to. Not just Rock Hudson, because Magic Johnson is above and beyond that in terms of his appeal and his popularity. So I think that when you hear Rev. Carl Bean talking about how the phone rang off the hook at the Minority AIDS Project the day after the announcement, that is sending out a very important, loudly-resounding message that straight people think they can't get it. They don't think they have to use condoms. And now Magic Johnson has it, and so now it's real. I think that's what's really important. Because it's ignorance, and denial, and finger-pointing that act as a petri dish for a virus like HIV. There's no disease like the disease of fear, and prejudice.

What are you writing now? Novel four?

No, I haven't started it yet. But after I finished the third novel, I wrote a couple of short stories, one of which I sent to Terry Wolverton for her upcoming anthology, *Still Indivisible*. And I wrote, I think, the best short story I've ever written. I wrote a story about my father, called *My Father's Son*, and it's unequivocally my favorite short story that I have.

This is fiction?

All I write is fiction. So that's what I've been working on recently. So probably the next project I tackle will be the fourth novel. I was hoping to be in London and writing it there, you know, that whole romantic notion of writing in a foreign country, à la Baldwin, à la Langston Hughes.

You really need Paris for that.

But London will do. See, the thing about London that's real desirable for me, is that my career is very

visible there. They published my first novel, they're publishing the second novel. I just had two short stories published there, one in November, one in December. So, I'm really visible there, in ways that I'm not here.

Any idea why that is?

It's the old, classic cliché, that so many African-Americans find fame in cultures outside their own, first. It's like a bandwagon mentality. America looked at how popular Jimi Hendrix had become in London, or how well Josephine Baker was doing in Paris, or Jody Watley in London, Terence Trent D'Arby, James Baldwin or Richard Wright in Paris; and then, they jump on the bandwagon, to take credit for that. The British bought my second novel like [snaps his fingers] that. A chapter was published in a magazine, an editor was on his way to work, reading the chapter, liked it; got to the office, called the magazine to see if I was being represented in the United Kingdom; they said yes; she forwarded the manuscript, and a month later, they made me an offer. That would never have happened in America. Not as a black, queer writer.

So, I'd like to write a project in another cultural setting. I'd like to do Paris, too; that's my first choice. I love Paris: it's my favorite European city, it's my second favorite city in the world I've seen so far, the first being New York. But in London, I have the audience, I have the readership. It just might be the place for me to be.

What are you reading now?

I'm reading short stories. I'm reading the anthology that just published me in Great Britain. It's a GMP anthology, called *More Like Mines*. And then there's a literary journal that I was published in, called *Passport*. And both of them are samplings of international writers. And I'm also reading *Men on Men II*. To read an international representation of writers is pretty exciting and stimulating. You see all the different cultural styles, the way different writers work. And also, I like to see what company I'm in.

For instance, some of the stuff in *More Like Mines* is really good. Do you know who Lev Raphael is?

Certainly.

He has a story in there called "Beth Homo." Larry, this story is so wonderful to me. And I just think... Wow. And they published my story? Anyway, that's what I'm reading now.

Unlike the general public, I happen to know that you have a beautiful singing voice, because you sang a capella, and beautifully, for the talent show at the Black Gay Men's

Retreat. And I'm curious, had you ever considered a career as a singer?

Yes. That's what I thought I was going to do. We share that, although you actually pursued it, but I didn't. I was a closet singer. A shower singer. The only public singing I ever participated in was in church choirs and school choirs. I was always made a soloist, and people always said, "Oh, you have a nice voice," and I love music. But it was never much more than that. But I think, because of my passion for music, my love for music, I kind of (in a passive way) thought, "That's what I'll pursue, I'll be a singer." And I'm still a frustrated singer. I would love to be able to sing, to be able to do them both.

In terms of romantic or sexual relationships, do you have any sort of racial agenda? Do you go out looking for white men, or black men? Do you have a preference?

No. I'm one of those rare people who have no racial preferences. I don't have types. My only type is good looking, and *about* something, working toward something, doing something with your life. In regard to black men in Los Angeles, I can't get *arrested* by one.

[big laugh] That was a laugh of recognition, because I feel the same way.

I mean it. I can't get *arrested* by black men. And I say specifically Los Angeles, because here, black men want the guy on the cover of *Frontiers*. I've had two relationships in my life. One man, I lived with for six

years. He was Argentine. And my second lover, the one who died, was Mexican. From Mexico City. A self-made millionaire. Indisputably one of the most brilliant people I had ever met in my life. Rich, beautiful, knowledgeable, all those things. His mother was an Anglo woman from the mid-West, who went on vacation to Mexico, and met his father there. And when I met him, I thought he was white, because he was sandy-haired and had beautiful blue eyes. And I noticed a little Spanish lilt to his speech, which was really sexy. And he told me his name was Carlos, and I thought, what is somebody as Anglo as you doing with a name like Carlos? And the guy I mentioned before, in *ACT-UP*, he's Indian, from Bombay.

I don't care, Larry. I get so annoyed with all these narrowly defined requirements that people want from their men. And they say, Well, you like what you like. But it's not that simple. You like what you're *told* to like. When you see that issue of *Edge*, when you see that issue of *Frontiers*, that is sending out a subliminal message that *this* is what's hot. This is the superior beauty example. You should want *this*. And many people fall for that, unquestioningly.

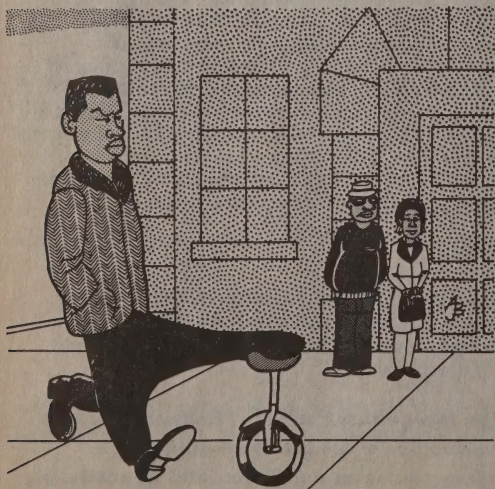
I just kind of like *men*. And I also think you can be black and be with somebody white, as long as you know who you are, and you have a point of reference about yourself—culturally, racially, historically—know where you're from. And not try to pass over to the other side, where the other racially different partner is. Love is where you find it, it really is. And this world is so bereft of love, of good candidates. I don't even want to get into the whole *men* thing.

The "whole men thing"?

I have this ongoing love/hate thing with men.

Well, let's talk about that for a little bit.

Okay. I think so many men—especially queer men—are not equipped to be loved, to commit. All those phobias we hear about heterosexuals all the time—it's true of gay men, too. And I can be as much of a slut as anyone, if that's what I choose to do. But I'm much more focused on being involved with someone, sharing my life with someone, building something with someone. And there are a lot of men out there who claim they want a boyfriend, they want to be committed, but they really don't. And that disturbs me. I don't think there's anything wrong with having as part of the gay subculture the leaning toward promiscuity. That's fine. And I'm not trying to be judgmental about any of that. But one of the things we don't emphasize in the gay community is relationships. We don't promote that. We don't talk about that. Maybe we see it as an imitation of what middle-class heterosexual life is, I don't really know where that's coming from. But we just don't seem to have a balance. I think there's something to be said for couples who are together for years and years. How



Be careful what you wish for. You just may get it.

come we don't celebrate that? How come we don't talk about that? It's like something that's in the closet.

And then, some queer men will get upset when we're portrayed as these sexual beings. Well, who can you blame the image [on], because that's the way we behave, the way we've structured our values. And in a way, I love the whole sexiness and decadence and gorgeous men—I love all of that. But, there is something else to us. We're more than just sexual beings.

I think there's a little too much emphasis on debauchery, on the sexual entity in our culture. I just wish there was more of a balance.

What I'd like to see a little more of, is that sense of family we have in the gay community. And that's on several levels. We have a sense of family in that, no matter how close we are to our own families—and I'm very close to my family, my family is very gay-friendly, everybody in my fuckin' life knows I'm a fag—and still, it's not the same thing as being at a retreat with 29 other black gay men, or being with gay friends on Christmas Eve. This sense of family that we have, whether that be a nuclear family like you and Greg, or the extended family where you have friends who come together because we totally understand each other. And no matter how gay-friendly our biological families are, they don't understand you in some ways that I understand you, by virtue of the fact that we're both queer men. And I'd like to see more emphasis on that.

Do you see that happening in the community?

I think so, but I think it's very minimal. And I think we're overloaded and overwhelmed with the other, which is the sexual thing, the promiscuity, the live-for-today attitude.

I certainly try to do what I can through my work. Having written *One Hundred Days From Now*, I've written two stories about a relationship between two men who obviously have some sense of family among themselves. And in *Fragments That Remain*, as I said, although Schuyler is coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white guy, they're still trying to work it out, to find some way to be together. Which is also part of the story—will they be able to do it.

A small semantic issue: you seem to use the words "gay" and "queer" pretty much interchangeably. Are they interchangeable for you?

Well, you know, I find that lately—especially the more I become entrenched in my political activism, where the word "queer" is thrown around a lot—that word has made its way into my vocabulary, somehow. And I really like defining myself as queer.

It's like—you didn't tell me, I told you. If you want me to be your queer, I'll be your queer. You want me to be your nigger, I'll be your nigger. And it's not from a place of hostility; it's just—I'll be a queer, if that's the way in which you can listen to me, or hear me, or address me, or identify me. In a way that you feel comfortable. And I'm giving it right back to you—yeah, I'm a queer. What about it? To me, it's a self-empowerment thing. And I find I'm using it more than "gay." And, for the sake of argument, I guess they are interchangeable. Except I think that "queer," at least in my mind, denotes an edge of radicalism. An edge of visibility. It says, I'm not going to be quiet. Maybe gay people will be quiet. Queers aren't quiet.

Is that because the word "queer" is so closely associated with Queer Nation, who are not a quiet bunch?

I think even before Queer Nation—and I'm sure that's why they use that term, because that particular identification was becoming more widely used. It was like turning the tables. We never used to like being called queer or faggot. And I refer to myself on many occasions as a faggot, as queer; not meaning to be disparaging to myself, at all. So, I think it was even there before Queer Nation got it. And then they took it and put it out there. And now everybody relates it to them, which is fine. I thought it was great, when I heard about this organization called Queer Nation. "I'm here, I'm queer and fuck you!" I like that kind of shit. That kind of stuff speaks to me, because that's what it's gonna take. You never make any kind of gains, socially, politically, economically, by being nice. We all know that. Being this nice little



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gay boy, this nice little proper Negro, like we were raised to be. Non-threatening, non-confrontational. So the word "queer" really speaks to that.

When did you grow your dreadlocks, and why?

I started them in May of 1988, so I've had them nearly four years. In a world, in a culture, in a city where we're still dealing with racial self-hatred and black people who don't love themselves; in the face of Jheri-curls and hair weaves; I felt compelled, literally, to make a statement about my ethnicity. It was a way of asserting my ethnicity. I was raised by two parents who taught us never to alter anything of your natural make-up; i.e., putting chemicals in your hair. When I was growing up, it was the "process." The process segued into the Jheri-curl. And, especially in Los Angeles, the Image Capital. And there are so many black people in this town, especially in the gay community, again—who are trying to be replicas of white America in the way they wear their hair. And I don't really have a problem with that, *per se*, as much as I have a problem with the changes we put ourselves through to alter ourselves.

I wish I could see more ethnic looking women in L.A. In New York, you see a lot of black women who look black. They celebrate their blackness. They wear hair-do's like you've never seen before, that just come out of a black woman's creativity.

As to my dreadlocks, I remember wanting to have them. And I always had these jobs, like you, working in law firms. And of course, you can't wear them there. And there I was, I'd sold *No Easy Place To Be*, I'm living on this little money, I'm a full-time writer and—oh! I can have dreadlocks now! In London, you see more people with dreadlocks than here. They're also much more commonplace in New York, on the East Coast.

So, that's where the dreadlocks come from. I just feel like sometimes I have to assert myself as an African-American queer; trying to remain visible; trying to get through life like anybody else, without any compromise about who I am and what I look like. Without someone dictating to me what my aesthetic should be, what my agenda should be, what my program should be, who I should be sleeping with. I have to do that for myself.

On the subject of chemical and surgical alteration, the sight of Michael Jackson must make you run screaming.

Yes, he does. What are black kids thinking when they see him?

I can't imagine. I literally can't imagine.

I can't, either. And there must be some white kids—and maybe some black kids, too—who don't have any

prior point of reference about Michael Jackson, before the surgeries. They may not even know if he's black or white. I can just see white kids asking their parents, Is he white, Mommy? Because white people tend to be really naive about those things. If we have what they think are Caucasoid features and lighter skin complexions, its like—Oh, you couldn't possibly be totally black, because you're too beautiful and your hair is too straight or wavy or whatever. And it's the same kind of dynamic with this Michael Jackson thing. And what could be more ironic than "It doesn't matter if you're black or white," when he's trying to be as white as possible? And I just think it's very sad. There's a part of me that's angry about it, but I think I'm much more sad about it than angry. Because this guy is just so lost. And his self-hatred yells just a little bit louder each time he releases an album. The nose has disappeared, the lips have disappeared, the skin is lighter, the hair is straighter. Just look at his videos chronologically.

And I'm so concerned about what message black kids are getting. If they want to be like Michael Jackson. And I think Michael Jackson is a wonderful role model for children, generally, and certainly for black children, I really do. And I was really upset when Farakhan was calling him "sissyish" or whatever. But in that one way, I find him disturbing, because we've had enough self-hatred. I am tired of self-hatred among black people. I am tired of self-hatred among queers. And we just have to get to a place where we can say this is who we are, this is what we have to work with, and this is okay. And it's as good as anybody else's.

So, what color of toilet paper do you use?

Whatever's available. Usually white.



Future GBM.

Oprah Look-alike

BY MARK HAILE



When the *Ladies' Home Journal* held their look-alike contest, Jecquin Stitt's supervisor, Beverly Keller, encouraged Jecquin wholeheartedly to enter. It didn't surprise anyone either that the Flint, Mich. native won the contest, as Stitt was a perfect double for Oprah Winfrey.

"I never intended to imitate her," Stitt told BLK, "I just happened to be looking like her..." The resemblance was stunning enough to start a second career for Stitt, currently employed by the city's Water Department.

For the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the look-alike contest and their winner turned into a quandary when they discovered that Jecquin Stitt, 33,

was actually a man.

Jecquin (pronounced "Jeh-KEEN") never actually mis-identified himself to *LHJ*. "I'm not lying to the public," he told TV station WJRT. "You know, because I *am* going through some changes." Stitt told BLK that the change should be completed by April. That will allow plenty of time for her to prepare for a June wedding with her fiancé, rap artist William Booker.

The first inclination on the part of *LHJ* was to disqualify Stitt, but when lawyers advised that it might pave the way for a sex discrimination case, they shrugged their shoulders and let the show go on as planned.

The prizes included a

complete studio makeover, a photo session and an appearance on *Oprah* with the star herself.

Although Oprah's staff was "really nice," Stitt noted that the appearance was brief, without a chance to even talk with Oprah after the taping. "A few of them told me they wish Oprah was as nice as I was," Stitt told BLK.

The publicity for Stitt from appearing on *Oprah* would be hard to duplicate, but it was far from being her first time as a winner. Since taking first place as Queen of the Ball in 1983, Stitt has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in Flint, and has taken the Miss Copa title as well.

The positive response

to her appearance as Oprah convinced Stitt to get back before the lights, and resulted in her being in constant demand for performances. Her summer schedule has her jumping across the Great Lakes states into Canada, and from Flint to Saginaw to Ann Arbor as well as to clubs from Ohio to Kansas.

Stitt has far more in her show than just Oprah. She also gives her audiences a heavy dose of Patti Labelle, Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Holliday and some comedy along with song and dance.

Stitt has been able to make time to perform for local benefits, making a priority of helping out groups like Agape, a local AIDS service organization.

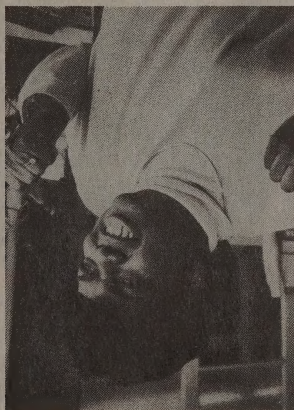
Throughout the whirlwind of publicity, which on top of the *Oprah* appearance has included interviews with *People*, *Time*, *Jet*, *Entertainment Tonight*, CNN, and a visit on *To Tell the Truth*, Stitt has had 100 percent support from her family, who help shield her when she needs her privacy.

"They think it's a gas," said Stitt. "They're getting used to this attention. They protect me." Theirs is a pretty normal family, Stitt told BLK, that stays out of the limelight for the most part.

Will success change Jecquin—more than the changes she's going through? No, say her co-workers and family, who also have had to adjust to the swarm of publicity they are responsible

in part for starting. Her relatively normal day job and home life has helped Stitt plan her career moves with a level head. She and her fiancé have been supportive of each other's careers, but Stitt doubts, smiling, that she will be in her fiancé's first video, even though they both independently are looking at recording and doing television. Her own first video is now in post-production.

Although she has an agent now handling bookings for her and her dance troupe and has also started her own production company, Stitt is intent on staying true to herself—the self that *happens* to look like Oprah. She reminded BLK, "But there's a lot more to me than that!"



STITT PHOTO BY KENT C. MILLER

Stitt's 2nd Career

JOE PRESSLEY

By Eric K. Washington

THE organization has done so much for me," Joe Pressley says of the five year old Gay Men of African Descent, better known as GMAD. Pressley was elected in

the spring to head the group, but that's not what he means. He easily sees himself as a living testament to GMAD's effectiveness as a support group, and who would be inclined to disagree? After all, this new executive director has only been out for two years. Pressley hastens to credit GMAD for his rapid evolution as he recalls his bashful debut two years ago at one of the group's anniversary picnics in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

"I was very closeted," Pressley says with an ironic expression. **"I was on my bike and I rode around the park four times until a good friend of mine saw me and said, 'Come on over, come on over! We've been watching you riding around the park all this time.'"** Pressley's 18-speed, like a faithful pet, is steadied by a hand on its saddle while its owner reminisces. **"Ever since that time,"** he confesses, **"I can't keep away."**

Pressley's friends in the organization sometimes chide him, he says, for making GMAD his whole life. It isn't quite. By day the single (and, he notes, eligible) 27-year-old is a technical writer

for computer software, a digression from his major at Syracuse University in African-American studies. Although he works in what he calls a supportive environment, he expresses a desire to eventually **"move out of corporate**

America" to do community-based work.

As initiative in that direction, GMAD is a major step. The organization boasts a roster of about 300 members, a mailing list of about 1200, **"mostly based in New York,"** says Pressley, noting that the group draws from across the country and the Caribbean. **"There's been talk of putting together other chapters,"** he adds, **"but right now we're trying to strengthen our organization capacity here in New York."**

As GMAD's executive director Pressley will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization whose mission, he says, is to provide support for men of color of the African diaspora, to politicize people and to promote the well-being of the overall lesbian and gay community. He will also be charged with preparing the budget, co-ordinating and overseeing the Friday membership meeting and working with the board of directors to set policy.

At the time of our talk, Pressley and GMAD were making plans for African-American Day. **"What**



NEAL COLLINS

we want to do this year is make it an all-day event," he says, noting plans for a morning brunch to precede the annual parade through Harlem. **"In the afternoon there's a reception for GMADers who march at Home to Harlem,"** he adds, speaking of the bookstore on 125th Street that is Harlem's main commercial thoroughfare.

One of Pressley's long-range goals for GMAD is to acquire more autonomous working space for the organization. At present the group sublets a portion of office space from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and holds its weekly meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

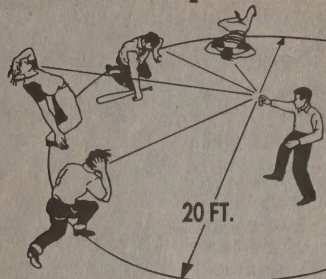
"I'd like to see us have more meetings outside the Center," he says. **"While I think it's important that we realize we have a place in the Center, I think it's important that we start having meetings and doing programs in our respective communities ...I'd like to see us own our own property where we can actually conduct our administrative activities as well as hold our programs and our general meetings. Hopefully in a place like Harlem or in Bed Stuy."**

One goal that Pressley hopes to achieve during his tenure is approval is Federal 501c(3) status, the income tax code under which tax-exempt groups are filed.

Pressley expresses another pressing desire he has for the group: He'd like for GMAD to establish itself more strongly as a support lender to some of the existing AIDS-related direct-service organizations for communities of color. Groups such as the Minority Task Force on AIDS, for example. **"Hopefully, not long-range,"** he says, shuddering at the given that AIDS may well remain a long-term crisis. **"I guess, immediately, for over the next couple of years, I'd like to see us giving them (MTFA) our manpower, pulling from our membership, doing hospital visitations and home care, things like that."**

Things like that, one realizes, would hardly have been uttered by this man two years ago. Now, as Joe Pressley remounts his bike and the spokes of the wheels begin to flutter like a loom, he has lost the timid air of someone skirting an uncertain path. He now appears to be spinning that path for others to follow.

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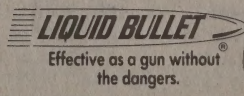
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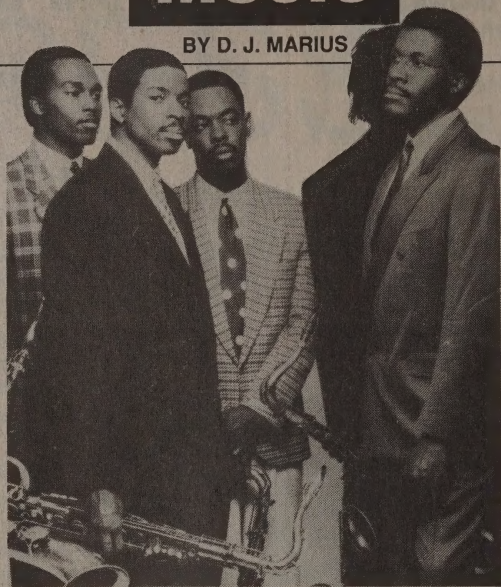
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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS



CAROL FRIEDMAN

PHYLLIS HYMAN

"Prime Of My Life"

(Philadelphia International)

It has been five years since her last album, *Living All Alone*, but for Phyllis Hyman this new release reflects "the spiritual, intellectual and creative growth I've been experiencing." Although her first record was released in 1977 on Buddah Records, it was her five year period with Arista Records in which she released such unforgettable hits as "Somewhere In My Lifetime," "You Know How To Love Me," and my personal favorite (which I still listen to today) "The Answer Is You." During this same time she also established a large and loyal fan base.

Long a member of an elite circle of mellow, sophisticated song stylists, Phyllis has consistently been a much-sought-after live performer. Approaching her 15th year as a recording artist, Hyman is very much in touch with the person inside the star. "I feel that I'm more secure and comfortable with myself now," she says. "I've learned to appreciate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of my voice in a way that I hadn't done in the past."

Although every song in this collection is a winner, there are some standouts. "When I Give My Love (This Time)" exposes Hyman's voice at its sensual best, and is truly one of her greatest ballads. She echoes feelings of passion on the intensely romantic "Meet Me On The Moon." Hyman also comes correct (and

contemporary) with the album's slammin' first single, "Don't Wanna Change The World." Does anyone have the phone numbers of any of the dancers in the video?

ULTRA NATE

"Blue Lights in the Basement"

(Eternal/Warner Bros)

As a dance album, this project definitely works: club-goers will love the house beats and bass-heavy rhythms, courtesy of album producers the Basement Boys. As a vocalist, however, Ultra Nate (pronounced nah-TAY) comes up short.

The Baltimore-based Basement Boys (Thomas Davis, Jay Steinhour and Teddy Douglas) have quickly become club music's producers/remixers-of-the-moment, and with good reason. The trio started as DJ's who were heavy into Baltimore's underground

dance scene: these guys know a slammin' beat when they hear one. The threesome was also behind the best-selling debut album by Crystal ("La-de-di, La-de-da") Waters - another non-singing diva.

Nate grew up singing in the church, but the power and intensity that is usually a result of such training does not come through on this album. When attempting higher notes, her voice often fades away. On the gospel-esque "Rejoicing (I'll Never Forget)", her background singers sound as if they're singing on a different record.

All this aside, this album is not without some jams worth noting. The best of these include "Is It Love?", which confirms that disco is becoming a stronger influence on today's dance music. Also worth the journey is "It's Over Now," and the sophisticated, down-tempo "Rain."

TOUGH YOUNG TENORS

"Alone Together"

(Antilles/Island)

Unless you've had your head under a rock for the last year, you've no doubt heard a lot of talk about the so-called "young lions" of jazz. A steady stream of incredibly talented young musicians have turned the often complacent jazz world on its collective ear. An exceptional quintet of tenor sax players—James Carter, Herb Harris, Tim Warfield, Jr., Walter Blanding, Jr. and Todd Williams—make this recording well worth seeking out.

The greatest traditions of jazz are preserved, as influences from John Coltrane to Ben Webster shine through. The album's composition allows each player's talent ample opportunities to soar: each player has a solo performance, each does two duets and all five jam in the final track, "The Eternal Triangle." Pianist Marcus Roberts, whose reputation was greatly enhanced by playing with Wynton Marsalis' group, gives the rhythm section added credibility, along with bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Ben Riley.

Harris, a Washington, D.C. native, has a smooth, romantic style that makes "You Go to My Head" one of the album's outstanding ballads. Thelonius Monk's "Ask Me Now," showcasing Blanding's excellent tone and emotional quality, and Duke Ellington's "Stevie," which features both Warfield and Williams, are just a few of many treasures.

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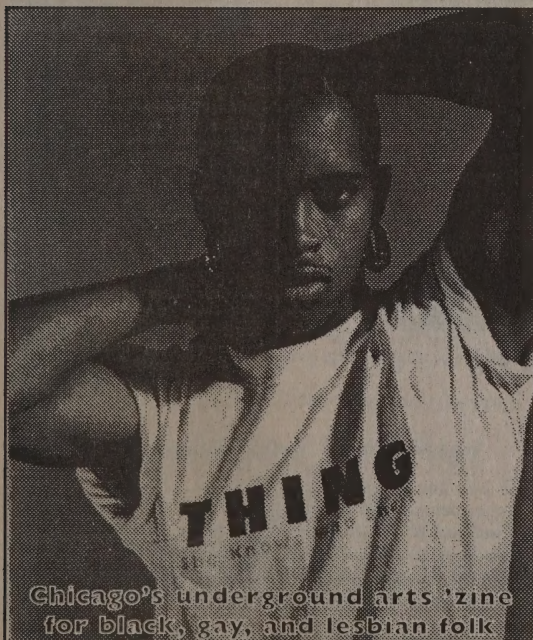


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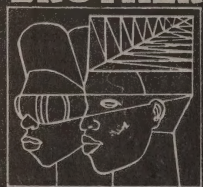
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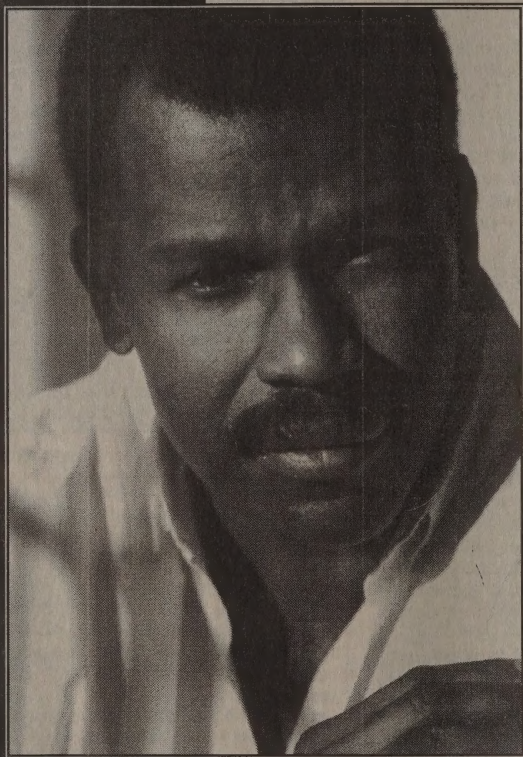
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BLK NEWS

COMPILED BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON, NEWS EDITOR

GLOW Adds New Chapters

JOHANNESBURG—GLOW, a predominantly black lesbian and gay activist organization started in 1989 now has grown to four chapters in Kwa-Thema, Tembisa, Soweto and Johannesburg Central.

The launching of GLOW has tended to belie the assumption that homosexuality in South Africa is merely a "white-male, middle-class problem." According to GLOW, most South African homosexuals aren't white, about half are female.

GLOW is a campaign organization, setting out to challenge conservative assumptions about lesbians and gays, changing them if it can, and fighting the oppression of lesbians and gay men.

—John Hubert

2,000 March in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Two thousand lesbians and gay men took to the streets Oct. 12 in the country's—and Africa's—second ever lesbian and gay pride parade. The marchers stepped off from the Great Hall at Witwatersrand University.

There were contingents from Cape Town, Durban, the Orange Free State and Pretoria—from Gazankulu, Rop and neighboring Swaziland, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Police behaved well—going so far as to provide a motorcycle escort. Riot squads were sprinkled along the route to protect marchers.

The marchers—40 percent black, 60 percent white—represented gay political groups, gay sports teams, AIDS care providers, the Johannesburg health department, unions, student political organizations, the African National Congress, and *Exit*, Africa's only gay newspaper.

The post-march party in the park featured organizational booths, food, beer, a puppet show, singing, dancing, "and a general re-affirmation of our identity," according to one lesbian.

Last year, 800 people turned out for Johannesburg's first pride parade. Both marches were organized by GLOW, the Soweto-based gay group founded by anti-apartheid and gay activist Tseko Simon Nkoli.

—Rex Wockner and Gerry Davidson

Lorde Named New York Poet

ALBANY, N.Y.—Audre Lorde has been selected to receive the New York State Walt Whitman Citation of Merit for poets. The New York State Writers Institute announced on Oct. 2 that Lorde will serve as official State Poet from 1991-1993. Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded the prestigious citation at a special ceremony here on Nov. 13.

The poetry citation, along with the New York State Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for fiction writers was established in 1985 by the State Legislature under the aegis of the New



William Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Audre Lorde, Patrick Swygert

York State Writers Institute. Established to "promote and encourage fiction/poetry within the state," the citations are presented to a New York State writer and poet upon the recommendation of an advisory panel of distinguished writers every other year. The fiction writer citation was awarded to Norman Mailer.

The advisory panel for the State Poet award consisted of Robert Creeley, who is the current State Poet, Molly Peacock, Charles Simic, and Tom Smith, associate director of the Writers Institute.

"I am honored to stand as poet for New York State—itsself a poem of complexity, contradictions, and wonder—and to accept this award named for one of my earliest beacons toward the real matter of poetry," said Lorde in a press statement.

In a September 1990 BLK interview, Lorde described herself as "a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet and mother doing my work."

Her work, as described by Robert Creeley in a press release, is "a poetry of consummate human dignity which speaks for all who are caught in the trammels of poverty or disenfranchisement, that sad word for the powerlessness of the forgotten. She insists on all the range of particularity of human feelings, of care for one another, of love despite our defenses."

—Eric K. Washington

Black AIDS Educators Meet

LOS ANGELES—The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was one of several kick-off events that brought together front line health care providers and educators from across California.

The workshops and training were presented by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Asso-

DAVID JENNINGS

ciation of Black and White Men Together. As part of San Francisco's Gay Men of Color Consortium, presenters also came from the Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services, and organizations representing Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and the Native American communities.

Reggie Williams, executive director of NTFAP; Paul Davis of the Minority AIDS Project; Phill Wilson, City of Los

Angeles AIDS Services Coordinator; Dr. Wilbert Jordan, director of the AIDS Institute at King Drew Medical Center; and more than two dozen other experts participated in the all-day workshops.

The Institute was held the day before the Creating Change West conference was set to begin at the Sheraton Townhouse which evoked some complaints. Most out-of-town participants were not able to stay for the entire conference. More than just the registration fee was at issue, as most of the participants had learned of the conference only in the week or two preceding it. Airfare, housing, and duties at their respective agencies were listed as barriers to participation in the three days and nights of events around the conference.

—Mark Haile

BLK BRIEFS

NEW YORK: *Paris Is Burning* was voted the year's Best Documentary by the 25-member New York Film Critics' Circle.

PHILADELPHIA: Dwayne and Carlton Bennett, both 20, and Giovanni Reed, 16, were arrested in the robbery murder of Robert Charles Janke. Janke, 22, was a volunteer with Nite Watch, a neighborhood group formed to protect gay businesses. **MOBILE:** The Mobile Area Lesbian and Gay Assembly adopted a mission statement at its Nov. 18 meeting which read, in part, "to build a multi-cultural community where all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation...may congregate to support one another..."

NASHVILLE: The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain that has been under fire for its anti-gay hiring policies may incur the wrath of the African-American community for the "black mammy" dolls it carries in its adjacent gift shops. **BALTIMORE:** The Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore has been awarded \$10,000 from the state for AIDS education. **ATLANTA:** A suspect identified only as Linsay has been arrested and charged with assault telling officers the victim was just a "fucking homo." **HARARE, Zimbabwe:** The manager of the Amenities Dept. said in Sept. that the city's four cemeteries are full and officials are considering requiring that persons who die of AIDS be cremated. **HOUSTON:** Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged in the shooting death of Philip W. Smith, 24, outside a Montrose bar. Police say Darrington said he shot the victim because he hates homosexuals.

MILWAUKEE: Catherine Lacy is suing three Milwaukee police officers, charging that their racism contributed to the death of her 23-year-old son, Oliver. The victim's mother says that her son would be alive today if the officers had believed witnesses' complaints and arrested Jeffrey Dahmer rather than returning a naked, bleeding Laotian boy to Dahmer's care. **SAN**

DIEGO: Sistahparty held a workshop "Bridging the Gap: Celebrating Our Diversity" Nov. 23. **NEW YORK:** Among

the productions featured at Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Television Festival were *Splash* by Thomas Harris, *She Don't Fade* by Cheryl Dunye, *Homosexuality: A Child's Point of View* by Jahanara and *Emergence* by Pratibha Parmar. The festival took place in New York Oct. 9 through 13. **MILWAUKEE:** The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee held a discussion "Racism II: An Exploration of Attitudes and Experiences" Nov. 21. **NEW YORK:** Men of All Colors/New York sponsored a four-month, four-session series, "Our Sisters, Ourselves" about relationships between black lesbians and gay men.

NEW YORK: *Among Good Christian Peoples*, a video by Catherine Saalfeld and Jacqueline Woodson was shown at the Center Sept. 27. *Peoples* includes the music of the Lavendar Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir...

Group Names '92 Officers

WASHINGTON—The D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men announced its leadership roster for 1992 following elections. Co-chairs of the membership organization representing black lesbians and gay men of the nation's capital are Kevin Taylor and Carlene Cheatam. Darren Buckner continues as business manager. Jim Byers wears two hats as secretary and membership committee chairman.

The political action committee is headed by Ernest Hopkins and Venus Thrash and the education committee is being led by Louise Gant and Gideon Ferebee. Sabrina Sojourner and Darren Buckner took charge of the finance committee while Stuart Adams and Jackie Walker preside over the newsletter committee.

John Wilson, chairman of the D.C. City Council delivered a personal message of congratulations at the installation ceremony for the new officers and took an opportunity to stump for his new legislation which would allow rights for domestic partners similar to those that married couples enjoy.

—Mark F. Johnson

Man Calls Cleveland 'Dad'

LOS ANGELES—Andre M. Cleveland, formerly Andre McIsaac, claims he is the adopted son of the late Rev. James Cleveland. The 34 year old record producer has disputed the James Cleveland Trust, which maintains the Cornerstone Baptist Church and the Gospel Music Workshop of America, since the death of the Rev. Cleveland in February. The estate is said to be worth \$6 million, of which Andre Cleveland claims half.

In documents creating the trust, which was formed only hours before Rev. Cleveland slipped irrevocably into a coma, Cleveland's daughter LaShone was left \$100,000, and Andre, referred to as a "friend and godson" was left \$10,000.

Andre Cleveland stated at his West Hollywood press conference that after a year of living together, it was "mutually agreed that I would become his common-law son, bearing his name."

Jean Ervin, mother of the late minister's daughter, said that there were any number of young men who also cohabited with Rev. Cleveland over the years.

According to widely repeated but unsubstantiated rumors, Rev. Cleveland was preceded in death by his last love by about a year.

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file suit, it could throw into jeopardy the future existence of Cornerstone Baptist Church, already considerably run down and weed ridden less than a year after its founder's death. Cleveland contends that resorting to a lawsuit would strictly be because of "the principle of the matter," but others have noted that the "interest" could be quite high as well.

—Mark Haile

Judge Quizzes Jurors

NEW YORK—Heated controversy broke out here over a rumor that a judge had decided to allow defense lawyers in a gay-bashing murder trial to ask prospective jurors their sexual orientation. One of the defense lawyers, Harold Harrison, was quoted in the *New York Post* as saying, "The judge agreed that we will be able to question each juror about their sexual preference."

On the following Monday, as lesbians and gays demonstrated outside the Kew Gardens courthouse, Justice Sherman was reported to have angrily denied agreeing to such a line of questioning and to have declared, "No juror will be asked if they are homosexual."

"I think that the defense lawyers are completely out of line in this case," said Sandra Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in comments to BLK. Lowe asserted that such a line of questioning was impermissible and unconstitutional and she expressed her skepticism that the judge would allow it.

The case has been the cause of outrage in the lesbian and gay community since July 2, 1990, when 29-year old Julio Rivera was repeatedly beaten in the head with a hammer and wrench and stabbed in the back by three men who left him for dead. It took months, with constant community pressure spearheaded by the Anti-Violence Project, before the police finally classified the murder as a bias-related incident. Of the three accused, one man, Dennis Doyle, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and is expected to turn state's witness against the other two.



Singin' in the Rain, c. 1991

Matt Forman, executive director of New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, agreed with Lowe and told BLK that he had confidence in the prosecutor's conduct of the case. But Forman added, "I don't have a lot of faith in any straight person's ability to understand the issue of anti-gay violence. This is not just a murder trial. The motive here is difference. And I don't have a lot of faith in anyone's ability to make a jury understand that. We're crossing our fingers at this point."

—Eric K. Washington

Study Says Condoms Shunned

SAN FRANCISCO—A significant percentage of heterosexual African-Americans and Hispanics may be putting themselves at risk for AIDS because they don't like or believe in condoms, a University of California San Francisco study has found.

UCSF researchers interviewed nearly 1,800 single non-gay women and men, 20 to 44 years of age, who live in "high risk" neighborhoods of San Francisco. Blacks and Latinos, more than whites, felt that condoms are uncomfortable and immoral, according to the study.

The findings are troubling, because among heterosexuals in the United States, Latinos and African-Americans continue to be disproportionately at risk for AIDS.

Politician Slams Gays, Blacks

PALOS TOWNSHIP, Ill.—Forty percent of U.S. Congressmen may be homosexuals, says Donald Chapman, an elected trustee in Palos Township in southwest suburban Chicago. A township is a governmental entity that provides city-type services to unincorporated county areas.

"If it is true that 40 percent of Congress is homosexual, the country is not long for this world," Chapman wrote in his regular column in the *Regional News*, a 3,000-circulation local newspaper. "It does, however, explain why Congress is so intimidated by the homosexual lobby. It is the most powerful lobby in Washington today."

Chapman also said blacks are not as smart as whites—"it's not even a contest. Any aptitude tests will show whites far ahead. It's no secret that homosexuals back the black movement 100 percent. What about the rest of Congress, the ones that are straight? They are 100 percent behind any legislation that favors blacks, but for a different reason: They know how to count votes."

On Oct. 9, six days after the column appeared, Chapman was fired by the *Regional News*, after six years with the paper. His fellow trustees also called for his resignation. Chapman, however, said he would neither resign nor recant his statements. The other trustees are "Bonzos," he added.

—Rex Wockner

Woman Starts New Business

DALLAS—Black entrepreneur Leslie Despenza-Hale has formed a company to offer erotica for women loving women. Despenza-Hale says Androgyny, Inc. will alleviate a "serious lack of erotica for women in our society. But even more so, there is a total lack of erotica for those of us who love women." Her aim is to achieve levels of sophistication in erotica attained in the gay male commu-

nity.

"Our goal is to portray the beauty of a woman's body and also women loving women as only we can know it—as a beautifully erotic experience that involves all of the human sexes—not just sordid sexual stimuli for future sex acts, as it is portrayed in the heterosexual male magazines," said Despenza-Hale.

Future projects for Androgyny include a magazine, videos, photo sets, calendars, greeting cards, novels and sexual seminars.

One division of Androgyny will be Bisexual Females for Fun (BIFF), which will host monthly meetings, parties, cruises and trips. "We began an organization to try to take us away from our problems, even if it is only a temporary solution," explained Despenza-Hale. "Life is so short and sometimes you have to take a break from the problems of the universe to smell the roses and enjoy life."

—Mark Haile

AIDS Groups Get Sire Money

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of the National Minority AIDS Council and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation each received \$5,000 from Sire Records' 900 Hot Line, established last year to assist national and local AIDS



Bishop Carl Bean (sixth from left) accepts check from Warner Bros. Records President Lenny Waronker.

organizations. The ceremony was held at Warner Bros. Records Burbank headquarters.

The Sire Records 900-Hot Line allows callers who dial 1-900-990-SIRE to preview and rate new Sire releases, hear the latest release dates and tour information, listen to exclusive interviews with Sire recording artists and participate in contests to win various collectors' items, CDs and concert tickets. All monies earned from the Hot Line go directly to selected AIDS charities.

Jazzers Hold AIDS Benefit

NEW YORK—The Village Gate, long one of the City's most renowned jazz establishments, was host to Jazz Against AIDS on Oct. 7, a benefit performance for the Minority Task Force on AIDS and the National AIDS

Project of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The performance raised over \$7,500 to be shared equally between the two organizations.

"It was a wonderful success," Jacqueline Allen, an organizer of the evening, told BLK. "We hope to make it an annual event."

While AIDS fundraisers have become increasingly common from all sectors of the entertainment industry, Jazz Against AIDS is believed by many to be the first direct response to the health crisis by the jazz community.

Admission prices to the event were appropriately jazzy, too. General admission tickets cost \$35 and select seats for Sponsors or Benefactors and their guests were available at \$150 and \$250. All contributions were tax deductible.

—Eric K. Washington

Blacks Target of Gay Bashers

CHICAGO—At least four black gay men have been victims of or have witnessed gay bashings, the *Windy City Times* has reported. The men did not want their names published for fear of harassment.

The Jeffery Pub, a popular black gay bar on Chicago's south side, has about the third highest concentration of black gay men in the city. The area in which it is located, a middle-class black neighborhood, is not as heavily gay as the strips of white gay bars on the north side area known as New Town. Attacks have been occurring over the past three months.

On Sept. 1, "John," said he was "slammed in the neck with a fist or forearm," causing a bleeding cut. He didn't see who hit him, but he says he saw about 20 teenage boys who had been standing nearby start to run down Jeffery Boulevard.

"Rick," a 45-year-old black gay man, has been going to the Jeffery Pub since the early '70s. He admitted that this past summer anti-gay violence became more pervasive, though he has heard stories of bashings in the past.



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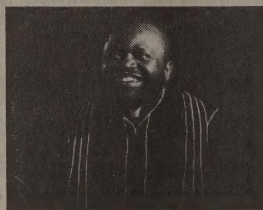
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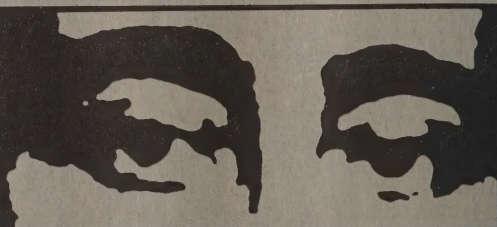
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A heterosexual woman who lives across the street from the bar stated that "almost every weekend" she has seen black gay men beaten for months. "They wait for guys to get out of their cars and then they jump them," she said.

"Rick" said that in mid-July one evening two men looked as though "they'd been beaten, jumped on and sprayed with mace" after going out of the bar and running back in with tattered clothes. He also stated that someone threw a rock through the door window.

The Jackson Park golf course, located about a mile from the Jeffery Pub, is a cruising area at night for black gay men.

"Ron" said on Aug. 9 he was in his car with someone when a group of teenagers smashed the back window with a golf club while surrounding the car. A year ago he was beaten and robbed of a gold chain while in the park. He informed police officers of both attacks and they were unsympathetic, saying that their attitude was, "Well, what are you doing in the park this late?"

"Ron" said that homophobic police officers do nothing about the gay bashings but do arrest people on public sex charges.

—Antonio Sharp

Lowe Takes N.Y. State Post

NEWYORK—Sandra J. Lowe, formerly a staff attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has become the director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns for New York State.

Lowe began as Mario Cuomo's liaison to the gay and lesbian community on Dec. 2, after three years at Lambda working on a range of issues including civil rights, domestic partnership, anti-gay and lesbian violence, and employment discrimination, among others.

One of the key national players in the effort to overturn the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members, Lowe gave direction and energy to Lambda's contribution to that effort. "Lambda was exhilarating, exciting," Lowe stated. "It put me on the cutting edge of the human rights movement, a rare and wonderful vantage point."

"Because of her incredible background, experience, and wisdom, Sandy was a very powerful and important person to the Lambda staff and organizational consciousness," noted Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director. "Even though we will miss her terribly, we all take great pride in her decision to take her myriad skills to state government."

As director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian



Sandy Lowe

TOM TYBYSKI

Concerns, Lowe told BLK her personal mission for the office would be to achieve "visibility, credibility, passage of the civil rights amendment and domestic partnership."

Lowe dates her career as an activist from the early '60s when she joined the Congress of Racial Equality. She graduated from CUNY Law School in Queens, N.Y. in 1987 and worked as a criminal defense attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia before joining Lambda. Lowe is currently a board member of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Johnson Signs for 3 Books

EW YORK—Basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson has reached agreement with Random House on a multiple book contract, Harold Evans, president and publisher of the Random House Trade Group, announced in December. Johnson will write an autobiography covering his basketball career and personal life culminating with the announcement that he has contracted the HIV virus.

In addition, Johnson, working with former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, will prepare a guide to responsible sexual behavior. All profits from this guide, which is intended to have the widest possible distribution, will go to the newly formed Magic Johnson Foundation to support education, care, and research efforts.

The contents of the third book will be determined at a future time. Evans said, "In a short time, by his courage and vision in the face of his adversity, Magic Johnson has aroused as much admiration among as wide an audience as he has in a lifetime of athletic brilliance."

Johnson was represented in his discussion with Random House by Michael Ovitz, chairman of the Creative Artists Agency, on a *pro bono* basis.

Johnson's autobiography is scheduled for publication by the Fall of 1992. The book will be edited by Peter Osnos, vice president and associate publisher of Random House.

The guide to responsible sexual behavior will be a paperback published by Times Books, a Random House imprint, and it will be available in the spring of 1992. Johnson, a three-time Most Valuable Player award winner of the National Basketball Association, led the Los Angeles Lakers to five world championships and is acknowledged as one of the great sports heroes of the age. He has now won applause, on giving up the game, by devoting his time to spreading the message of responsible sexual behavior and raising funds to assist people with AIDS.

AFA Boycott Targets Listed

UPELO, Miss.—The American Family Association, a right-wing, anti-gay fundamentalist organization, has targeted a number of companies, products and television shows for boycott.

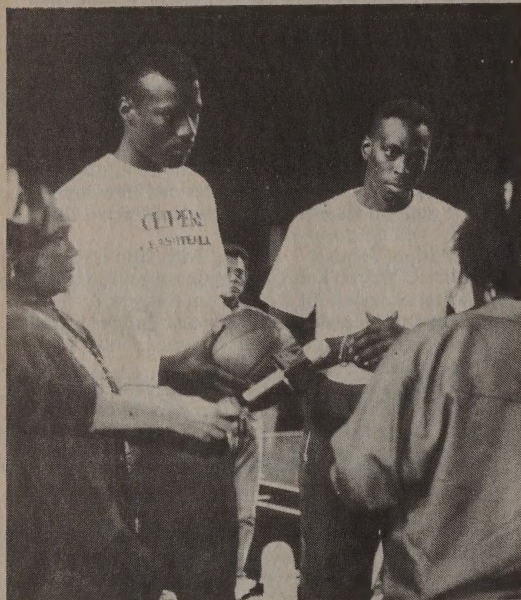
They include Arm and Hammer, General Motors, Alpo, Burger King, Green Giant, Hägen Dazs, Pearl Vision, Ben Gay, Unisom, Visine, Phillip Morris, makers of Birds Eye, Breyers, Brim, Cool Whip, General Foods, Jell-O, Kraft, Lowenbrau, Miller, Marlboro, Oscar Meyer, Parkay, Sanka, Sealtest, Glade, Johnson Wax, Off, Raid, Aspercreme, Slim-fast and Toyota.

Television shows include *Doctor Doctor*, *Gabriel's Fire*, *Golden Girls*, *L.A. Law*, *The Hogan Family*, *Life Stories*, *Over*

My Dead Body, The Simpsons, Thanksgiving Day, and thirty-something.
—Mark Haile

L.A. Clippers Enter AIDS Fight

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Clippers have stepped into the AIDS arena by shooting a public service announcement for the Shanti Foundation, becoming the first NBA team to take action against HIV



Loy Vaught and Tony Brown

since Magic Johnson's announcement that he was HIV positive.

The 30-second commercial, taped at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, features Clippers Loy Vaught and Tony Brown. The spot addresses Shanti's safe sex education and HIV counseling services, and urges people to get involved in the fight, telling them that the "ball's in your court."

The commercial is currently being distributed to stations throughout southern California.

Founded in 1983, the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support and education to those affected by life-threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS. Shanti services includes support and education groups, monthly information seminars and one-on-one peer support volunteers.

D.C. Black Pride Set for May

WASHINGTON—History will repeat itself next May when black lesbians and gay men in D.C. hold their second Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day as planned. The event, scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, will pick up where last year's event left off, according to

organizer Carlene Cheatham.

Despite the oppressive heat, hundreds of black lesbians and gay men turned out last year. After the success of the event, groups in other cities announced plans to hold their own local versions.

Proceeds from the event, as last year, will go to organizations that are active in the fight against the spread of AIDS and those that care for AIDS patients.

Next year, organizers plan to extend the festivity to the entire weekend, which culminates with Pride Day, May 24. The weekend, traditionally very popular as black lesbians and gay men from around the nation converge on the District, will kick off with a social May 23 and be followed by a concert.

Events to raise funds for the second annual celebration of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride are planned throughout February, Black History Month.
—Mark F. Johnson

Black Groups at Marathon

NEW YORK—Sensible shoes on a Saturday night? To fight AIDS?

Nona Hendryx, Monie Love, Salt-N-Pepa and 2 in a Room were among the headliners at the second annual AIDS Dance-a-thon which drew thousands on Nov. 30. The five-hour fundraising extravaganza, which took place at the Javits Convention Center in midtown Manhattan and housed 100,000 square feet of dance floor, elaborate lighting and donated refreshments, benefitted the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's oldest and largest AIDS organization.

The Dance-a-thon, which had been promoted by pop star Madonna, was part of a GMHC project called 10 Days/10 Deeds which began Nov. 22 and led up to Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. The campaign's highlight was the city-wide distribution on Nov. 26 of 100,000 condoms and safer-sex flyers during the morning and evening subway rush hours. The Dance-a-thon attracted 7,300 people who raised \$1.6 million for GMHC.

The event was also the New York City site for "Red Hot + Dance," a dance party held simultaneously in numerous cities worldwide on the eve on World AIDS Day. A TV special and album are planned for release next Spring that will feature the parties and performers as well as promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education.
—Eric K. Washington

New Orgs Spring in Rochester

ROCHESTER—Two new gay organizations for people of color have sprung up like a late harvest this fall in upstate New York. RLOCO (for Rochester Lesbians of Color Organization) and Brothers United both formed independently of each other in Rochester during the final months of last year.

"Our time has come to be seen, heard and known," said Diane Conway who set RLOCO in motion last August by attracting interested lesbians with flyers and advertisements in Empty Closets, the local gay journal. "We've decided to start RLOCO out as a social group first to gather people, and then later we'll look into forming its organization."

Gary English, founder of Brothers United, sees his group as "basically a social group," too, citing that black gays in Rochester are alienated in that town's social scene. "The black gay community is basically underground," English

told BLK.

Daryl Kittelberger, who is president of the group, agreed, asserting that many black gays prefer to drive the extra miles to Buffalo for the nightlife lacking in Rochester. But Kittelberger said, "I see Brothers United as primarily a support group, as well as social.

On Dec. 14, the two groups got together. Brothers United sponsored its first social event at the Gay Alliance, a community space in Rochester. *Tongues Untied*, the award-winning documentary film by Marlon Riggs, was shown at the event, which was followed by a party.

"People came from Ithaca, Syracuse and Buffalo," said Charles Stevens, the group's treasurer, who was happy to note that Brothers United signed up 48 new members that evening. "The oldest member is 57. The youngest is 20," Stevens said. He added, "I think it went over very well."

Conway, who gave a solidarity message to Brothers United, agreed, noting that, while it did not achieve as numerous a roster as did the men's group, RLOCO also benefited from a surge in membership as a result of the event.

The founders of both groups appeared enthusiastic about the prospect of black lesbians and gays finally coming together, not only as a visible contingency of Rochester's mainstream gay community, but as an integral component of the general black community. Both English and Kittelberger hope Brothers United will address AIDS. "There's a lack of knowledge about HIV," said Kittelberger of the general black community in Rochester. "We have people who still believe you can get it from kissing."

—Eric K. Washington

AIDS Money to Black Center

LAS VEGAS—Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) raised more than \$10,000 at a benefit at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas to go, in part, toward developing the African-American Resources Center in West Las Vegas. The project will be a satellite of AFAN operated in conjunction with the Nevada Treatment Center.

Additional funds for the development of the prototype project will come from the AFAN thrift store opening this fall, and the United Way, which has provided \$86,000 in the first eight months of 1991.

Conference Changes Site

LOS ANGELES—The fifth National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes originally scheduled for the Clarion Hotel in Oakland have been moved to the Oakland Airport Hilton, 1 Hegenberger Rd. adjacent to the Oakland Airport. The annual event takes place Feb. 13-17.

Linda Villarosa, a senior editor at *Essence*, and her mother Clara Villarosa, owner of Hue-man Bookstore in Denver will be featured speakers. Other featured speakers include Sherry Harris, Dr. Marjorie Hill, Dr. Billy E. Jones, Sandra Lowe and Dr. Tim Moragne.

The weekend will include an AIDS Institute on Thursday, and four concurrent Institutes on Friday, Women's Issues, Culture, Spirituality and Leadership. Over 50 workshops and caucuses will be presented Saturday and Sunday. Events end on Monday with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's annual meeting.

Social and cultural events include a party at Whispers Thursday evening; a women's reading and party Friday evening; readings from Assoto Saint's *The Road Before Us*, an awards banquet and dance Saturday evening; and a co-gender reading and bus tour of San Francisco Sunday evening.

The Conference and Institutes are a joint venture of the Leadership Forum which is sponsor and Unity Bay Area which is host. Phone number for the event is 213-666-5495.

Skinheads Indicted in Attack

BOSTON—Racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic literature was found on one of three men arrested for attacking two gay men in Boston.

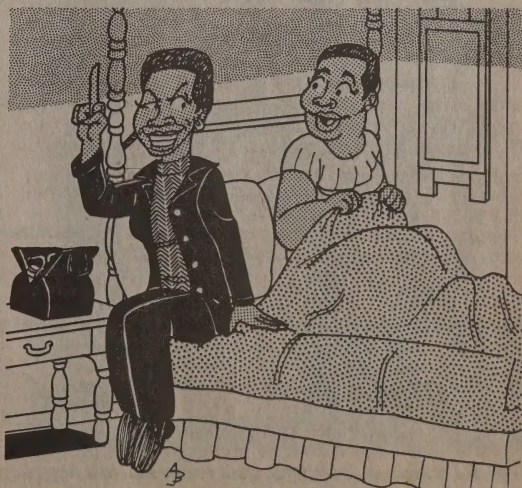
At least two of the men arrested by police, who witnessed the attack, were skinheads. The white supremacist material led to an indictment for civil rights violations causing bodily injury, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison if convicted. Donald Pilkington, Jr., 19, Kenneth E. Anderson, 18, and Matthew R. Caruso, 18, were named in the indictment.

Martina Sees Double Standard

NEW YORK—"If I had the AIDS virus, would people be understanding?" said tennis star Martina Navratilova speaking of Magic Johnson's recent disclosure that he was HIV positive. "No, because they'd say I'm gay I had it coming. That's why they're accepting it with [Johnson] because supposedly he got it through heterosexual contact.

Navratilova spoke Nov. 20 after practice for the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. Her comments were printed in the *New York Post*.

"There have been other athletes who died from AIDS and they were pushed aside because they either got it from



"Just a minute, Doctor. That 'vaginal thermometer' looks like a finger to me."

drugs or they were gay," Navratilova told the *Post*. "That's pretty scary. If it had happened to a heterosexual woman who had been with 100 or 200 men, they'd call her a whore and a slut and the corporations would drop her like a lead balloon. And she'd never get another job in her life."

"It's a very big-time double standard, and it's frightening because it's happening. When it comes to promiscuity, it's very much accepted [among men]. And women are banished."

Dinkins Relents on Needles

NEW YORK—After clearly expressing his opposition to government sponsored needle exchange programs last year, Mayor David Dinkins has had a drastic change of heart. In a reversal of city policy, New York City will establish government endorsed needle exchange programs.

Following Mayor Dinkins's review of official research reports from Yale University and a New Haven-based needle exchange program, which documented decreased AIDS cases after the implementation of such programs, the Mayor conferred with Acting Health Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg who similarly recommended that a needle exchange program be instituted in New York City.

According to the *New York Times*, Mayor Dinkins has called the city's recent support of this somewhat controversial program, "a more aggressive approach by his administration to fight both AIDS and drug abuse."

Prior to the city's drastic turn in policy, ACT-UP had established needle exchange sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan where intravenous drug users were counseled on the twin dangers of using drugs and sharing needles.

Although an official starting date has not been set, the Dinkins Administration has expressed support of programs

—similar to those of ACT-UP—which will provide intravenous drug users with AIDS education and drug counselling. It is a move that both AIDS activists and city officials alike have applauded as a positive and effective measure in slowing the spread of AIDS.

Mayor Dinkins is looking to private organizations to fund the pilot programs which will be run by community groups throughout the city. The American Foundation for AIDS Research has announced that it will donate \$300,000 for four pilot programs, which will include one New York City locale. In addition to soliciting financial assistance from private foundations, the city will select community groups which will be given State Department of Health Waivers enabling them to exchange needles when necessary.

Other cities which have already implemented government sponsored needle exchange programs include: Honolulu, Hawaii; Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. —LaRose Parris

BMX Holds Cultural Gathering

OAKLAND—The Black Men's Xchange (BMX) and the African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI) have announced plans for their 1992 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat. The event will take place Feb. 14-16, the same weekend as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference.

BMX, which was founded in Los Angeles by Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson in 1989 for "black men who love men," sports chapters in seven cities across the country. The group, headquartered in Oakland, Calif., now also includes activities open to women and non-people of color.

HIV/AIDS will be the focus on Friday when AMASSI considers outreach strategies, treatment and counseling services that have been effective in black male, women's and children's communities. Education and prevention programs and activities in African-American communities will also be considered. The events, collectively titled "African-Americans Living in the Age of AIDS: a Celebration of Life," will take place at Providence Auditorium, 3100 Summit St.

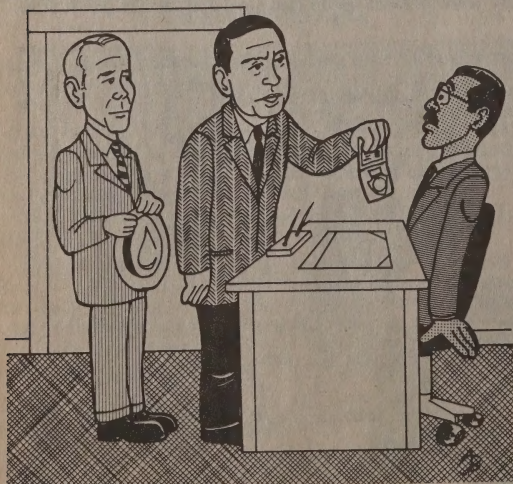
On Saturday at Humanist Hall, BMX will host a series of events focusing on community, Afrocentrism and empowerment. The Hall is located at 320 27th St. A party and fundraiser, "Let Us Admire Your African Attire," is scheduled for Saturday night at Bella Napoli, 2330 Telegraph. The conference ends on Sunday with a retreat for existing and prospective BMX chapters.

BMX can be reached at 800-821-5143.

Johnson to Begin Taking AZT

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (UPI)—Retired Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson will begin taking AZT to combat the HIV virus upon his return from vacation according to his agent, Lon Rosen. AZT, one of two drugs approved by the federal government for use in AIDS treatment, has come under fire from some AIDS researchers who doubt its effectiveness.

"He will begin treatment when he returns," Rosen said at the Forum recently. "It's not critical, or else he wouldn't be on vacation, but he wants to start it. The reason he's not starting it now is because he needs to be monitored while he's taking it."



"Federal Bureau of Sensitivity, sir. It seems that last night you neglected to comment on the bearnaise sauce William spent three hours preparing yesterday. You have the right to remain silent...."

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

GWEN ALEXANDER, died Aug. 24 of complications related to AIDS as reported in the *Washington Blade*. After graduating high school, Alexander studied cosmetics in New York and Maryland. Her expertise with cosmetics enabled her to work as a makeup artist and model. She was a well-known entertainer, pageant winner and recipient of many awards including the Best Professional Entertainer Award from the Academy Awards of Washington. She was 36.

JESSE 'JAY' BLACK, JR., died July 21, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Black, born June 2, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio lived in New York for a time and settled finally in San Francisco in 1974. In 1976, Black enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent much of his tour in Guam. After active duty he stayed on with the Naval Reserve. From 1980 until his death he was employed by Pacific Bell. Black was 46.

RICHARD A. BOYDSTON, a Rochester resident, died of complications associated with AIDS. Boydston appeared internationally as a dancer and received many honors. He is survived by his mother and friends from California to New York. He was 24.

TIM DOLLSON, died of AIDS related complications in June as reported in the *Mom, Guess What!* newspaper. Dollson was a resident of Sacramento from birth, although he lived briefly in Minnesota and San Francisco. He was employed by various organizations, the last being the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn. Dollson, known to be an excellent dancer, was 31.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DUNHAM, born Jan. 14, 1960, died Aug. 19 of cancer. Dunham served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 31.

GORDON TYRONE DUNN, died Aug. 15 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Born during 1955 in North Carolina, Dunn attended school and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. In 1981, receiving an honorable discharge, Dunn moved to Washington where he worked for MCI. Active in the community, he volunteered with the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's campaign office. He was 36.

CLEVELAND GATES, JR., died Aug. 30 of AIDS complications. Born Mar. 6, 1958 in Chicago, Gates completed high school and worked as a general contractor. A segment of his work was featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. Moving to Florida for a few years, Gates worked as a manager for the Club Bath chain. Returning to Chicago, he was an active volunteer with several organizations and was the television spokesperson for Bonaventure House. Gates was also active in the '80s with BWMT as reported in the *Chicago Gay Times*. He was 35.

TONY HUGHES, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

ERNEST A. JOHNSON, born Aug. 9, 1954 in Washington, D.C. died Sept. 14, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. After receiving his B.S. in 1976 from Ferris State University, Johnson worked for General Motors corporate headquarters. In 1980, he moved to San Francisco and was employed by Pacific Bell, he also worked as a loan officer. He is survived by his lover of eight years, Brian Dezzani.

DWIGHT E. JORDAN, drowned in Arizona while in tubing in a river on Sept. 6 as reported by *In Step*. Known for entertaining, Jordan toured the U.S. and Canada. He was 36.

JOHN W. KEMP, died Aug. 1 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He was 44. Born Aug. 4, 1943 and raised in Detroit, Kemp moved to San

Francisco in 1981. An MBA graduate of Harvard, he worked as chief financial officer for North Coast Industries and was president of OMCOA among his varied positions. During the '60s Kemp was a member of the Capitols and sang with them for sometime.

HENRY LOVETT, born Oct. 30, 1958, died Sept. 23 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Metroline*. Born in Georgia, Lovett moved to Conn. where he lived and worked until his death. Employed in the food service industry, he worked for T.G.I. Friday's for 11 years, as well as Mr. Steak and the Great American Cafe. He was 32.

MARTIAL-RIO, died Nov. 15 of AIDS complications. A Los Angeles resident for over 20 years, he was a hair stylist for 11 years with such clients as Natalie Cole and Diahann Carroll before he established a public relations business. A board member of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Martial-Rio was the PWA coordinator for two of the annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences and volunteered for the Minority AIDS Project. He is survived by his lover, Bill Weinberg, and uncle, Leonard Simon.

KENNETH A. MARTIN, died July 29 of complications associated with AIDS. Born June 1, 1962 in Chicago, Martin was educated at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and went on to receive his B.A. from Illinois State University as well as his teaching certificate in Spanish. Teaching high school from 1985-89, Martin left and accepted a position at Test Positive Awareness. From 1989 until his death, Martin was executive director of TPA, an outreach worker for BE-HIV and an active client of AAHP as reported in *Gay Chicago*. He was 29.

ERNEST MILLER, a 24-year-old member of BWMT-Milwaukee, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

JEFFREY PATRICK, 39, died Aug. 9 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. In 1982, Patrick received his B.A. from the University of D.C. and began work as an accountant at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Patrick was a member of the theater group, Encore, and appeared in many productions. He produced and directed *Feeling Good All Over*. Patrick founded COCON, a network of friends across the country. Through the county recreation department he instructed modern dance classes for children.

FREEMAN POLLARD, died July 31 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. A native of Alabama, Pollard graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 and from New York University in 1967. Moving to D.C. in 1971, he worked for the National Urban League. From 1978-82 he lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya for Planned Parenthood. When he returned to the U.S., Pollard worked as a consultant until his retirement last year. He was a collector of African art and a lover of baroque music. He was 49.

KELSEY PULLIAM, a native of Virginia died July 31 as reported in the *Washington Blade* of AIDS associated complications. With a bachelor of art's degree and a bachelor of science degree he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Moving to D.C. in 1978 he worked as a payroll coordinator for two government agencies while pursuing a second master's degree in business administration. As a bodybuilder Pulliam won many contests. He was 39.

RAYMOND PUGH, a soloist and choir director at Rev. T. L. Barrett's Church of Chicago died last year. He worked for more than 14 years as a customer service representative for a telephone communication company as reported in *Gay Chicago* magazine. Pugh had a love for designer clothes and furniture.

RAFAEL ROMAN, born Oct. 24, 1946, died Nov. 4, of AIDS related complications. He was 45. Roman was a founding board member of Community Health Project of New York where he worked as a volunteer for ten years. He is survived by his lifemate, Michael Dupre.

SHANE, died July 3 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Chiron Rising*. A 47-year-old New Yorker, he was an author and wrote many pieces of published fiction.

EDWARD SMITH, a BWMT-Milwaukee member was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

CURTIS STRAUGHTER, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

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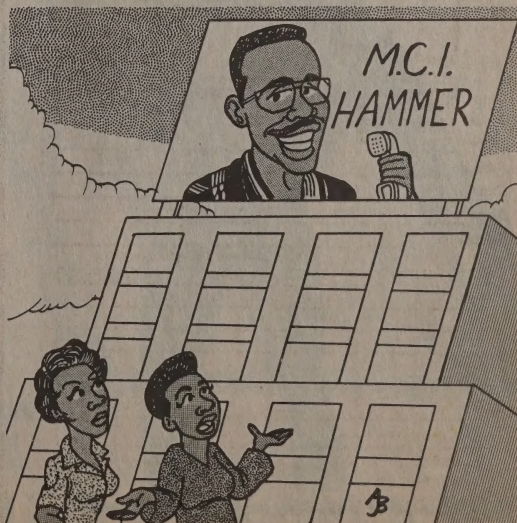
BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Basgo's was the unofficial headquarters of Black and Brown Men Together during L.A.'s **Sunset Junction Street Fair**. We saw one of our favorite future husbands, **Bill Meredith**, roaming the fair side-by-side with gonna-be mayor **Mike Woo** who carefully shoe-horned his waxwork of a wife into every photo taken of him, lest anyone suspect Mike of pitching woo at one of the boys in that seething throng of same-sex strollers. Gay Chorus baritone **John Logan** was also there, just back from a singing tour through Europe where, he says, the natives wore him out beseeching private performances of John's, er, "rhythm-and-moves"... Struttin' his bulgin' stuff all over the nation these days is "**D**"**Cannon**, the Paul Bunyan of Gay Blackdom, aka Mr. International Leather, who tells anybody he catches whining about racism that he's never experienced discrimination in the gay leather scene. Well, we guess *not* with those pecs and that whip!... Guess what other leatherqueen decided to crash a meeting of L.A.'s **Arab Gays**, only to discover that other brothers also showed up in hopes of being dragged off to Araby by a desert sheik? Turns out that there were enough Valentino look-alikes down for adding a Queen of Sheba to their harems so no catfights ensued. Meeeeeow!...What's old and white and goes down the minute the sun sets? "Camp Mae West" is really just the name of the retreat L.A.'s **BWMTers**

escape to every summer near Lake Arrowhead. We hear they do all sorts of campy things like ride (horses), get high (mountain climbing) and eat (wienies and buns). Then there are the *indoor* activities designed to break down, uh, interracial barriers. *Lawd*, how them walls come tumblin' down... Speakin' of BWMT, we hear it has all but ceased to exist as a national organization since its last convention. Oh, it's still got chapters everywhere, but the Nat'l Assn's statement of purpose has been changed to read, "NABWMT is a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization" instead of "interracial organization." Victory tastes sweet when it's been a long time coming and the **MACT/NYers** have been nagging the national organization for years to shift focus from being a safe space for blacks and whites to date and mate to becoming a gay Third World-oriented coalition. They'd switch the biracial name to a multiethnic one if they could without forfeiting their late founder's \$300,000 legacy... A phoenix did arise from the convention's pyre: BWMT/Philly founder **Jerry (the Red) Mallon** released the updated *Anti-racism Manual-an Action Guide* just months before his death. He said he'd do it and he delivered on his word as always. Sweet sleep, Jerry...Ditto our beloved friends **Craig Harris** and **Ken Marshall**, both warriors for the cause...Avowed—but not verified—heterosexual

Keith Antar Mason and **the Ms. Vaginal Creme Davis** performed together at a Beyond Baroque Benefit in September. Vadge did Club Lingerie, more familiar turf, in August...Get your carnival drag off the rack, girlfriends, 'cuz Rio de Janeiro has joined Bahia in outlawing discrimination against homosex at last! Of course we hear that the closet is stuffed too full for most gays and lesbians to sashay out despite the new law. Well we'll just have to caravan on down there and show'em how to take advantage of their new freedom. Oooh, We just *adore* rummaging through other people's closets! But careful, police in Rio may still arrest you for "indecent contact," while transvestites have to carry special ID cards (Wait, does that mean those buffed Brazil-

ian cops are easily deceived? Honey, we're on our way!)...**Pomo Afro Homos** (whose act is *almost* as *avant garde* as their name and who dish dirt nearly as well as *yours truly*) hit New York at Dance Theater Workshop's Bessie Schonberg Theater Oct. 3-13...Our favorite cable program last summer was watching AB 101 pass in Sacramento on Cal-Span's coverage of California democracy in action. It's more entertaining than most of what's on the telly (especially **Miss Willie** in her *big chair bangin'* her gavel and tellin' all those Republicans to behave or be 'buked. The Speaker sho' do look like he's havin' a good time up there). Of course, **Petey the Teenie Weenie** was smart enuf not to have the cameras rolling when he



"Looks like rap has gone mainstream."

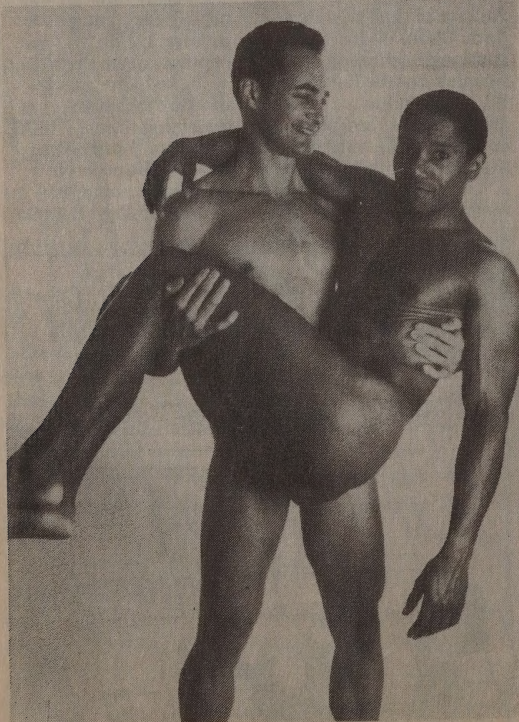
vetoed AB101! The Gov of the Golden (Shower) State sez we was busy all day on Oct. 11 when the demos came to town, and that he didn't hear a peep out of the 7,000 demonstrators. Yeah, right. L.A. activists **Debra Johnson, Bill Meredith and Warren Sims** were spotted in the crowd, and we know they know how to be heard. **Phill Wilson** and **Charles Stewart's** bosses sent them up for the Black Caucus hearings going on inside the Capitol but they escaped and joined the yelling crowd outside...It's getting easier to keep our resolve not to break our tiresome diet, what with **Taco Bell, Domino's, Kentucky Fried Chicken** and now **Pizza Hut**, all accused of

firing HIV positive employees. If you're trying to keep track, **Wendy's** has apologized to the gay community, and **Burger King** is now not only gay supportive, but *they* are being made the target of a boycott by the far right, so when you have to cheat and eat, do be politically correct about it. And just forget about the **Cracker Barrel** for a while, unless, of course, you'd like to drop in for a nice, long, leisurely glass of ice water, say, for an hour or so, with hmmm, say 100 of your closest friends. Sounds like a '60s sit-in, you say? Don't worry, the folks at the MLK Center in 'lanta have trained monitors to make sure the cops don't think it's the '60s, too...Poetry Festival: Seven days of les-

bian and gay readings during the third annual Los Angeles Poetry Festival included an evening of African-American *griots* (poets) Oct. 23 at Jewel's Catch One. Those reading from their works included **Adrienne, Amove, Harry Gibson, Mark Haile, Precious, Tamu and Jerome Woods...** Difficult to believe that **R. Couri Hay's** column on how to exploit and take advantage of disenfranchised youth received nary a letter to the *Advocate*, but with the fuss over the muzz of outing the Pentagon's **Pete Williams**, sheesh, we guess they didn't have space to print letters on anything else. The only mention of the rather tasteless and inherently racist column—part two of which mysteriously never ran—came from equally tasteless and inherently racist **Michael Musto** (the "queer" columnist for the *Village Voice*, with whom we'd *never* engage in a drinking match). Musto found fault that the "ultra-correct" Hetrick-Martin Institute had turned down a premiere of *The Black Lizard*, an early '60s camp film of Yukio Mishima from Japan. Sniped Musto, "Maybe if it had been called *Lizard of Color?*" Is Michael sneaking up to Harlem to "get some" after dissing people of color (especially after cocktails, and before bragging about straight men)...**BWMT/Milwaukee, Club Muse and Lesbians of Color** pooled talents for a picnic Aug. 18, at the Dineen Park Pavilion. The picnic was a needed diversion in the wake of a long, tragic summer for Milwaukee's gay men of color...The new TV season brought more black faces to the tube. And even **Star Trek** is going to beam in some gay folk from up in outer space somewhere. But black lesbians

and gays? Prime time can still only stand our stuff when it's ridiculed in comedy—not, mind you, that we don't love our sisters **Antoine and Blaine** dearly for their supreme self-regard! And you wonder why we turn off the TV and read, (or go dancing when our culture-diva friends aren't looking)...At the second annual Open and Out Festival in L.A., **Colette Jackson** presented a two-part one woman show, *Visions of a Mixed Child*, on the experience of being a multi-racial black, and *Coming Out in the Bible*, a retelling of stories of the Bible using black English that reveals gay affirmative content...**Lawrence Petty, Cleo Manago and David Bruce** celebrated their birthday Sept. 21 in a combined fête attended by 45 people. Among the luminaries in attendance were **Stanley Bennett Clay and Devre Jackson...** Chicago Transit Authority officials consider being HIV positive as a disability. Don't get offended, chile, get even! Pick up your special reduced busfare card, good on regional transportation systems, too. Call 312-561-9661 for details...**MACT/Chicago** celebrated its 11th anniversary at the **Annex 3**. Miss Gay Wisconsin, **Echo Chambers** was MC for the show...**BWMT/DC** held its 11th Oct. 11 in Crystal City...**Triangle MACT** said hello to its fifth Nov. 1...**N.Y.C.'s Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee** sponsored a festivity even chewier than the group's name with its \$12-a-plate Harvest Feast Nov. 15. Flyers for the event warned that the celebration was not to be confused with the European-American Thanksgiving holiday. 'scuse it!...Next stop: the conferences in Oakland, California!

MARK STUDNEY



The outside cover of greeting cards mailed to friends in December by black gay author Larry Duplechan and his lover Greg Harvey. Inside, the card read, "Thank you, Santa!" Hmmm. Who gave who what?

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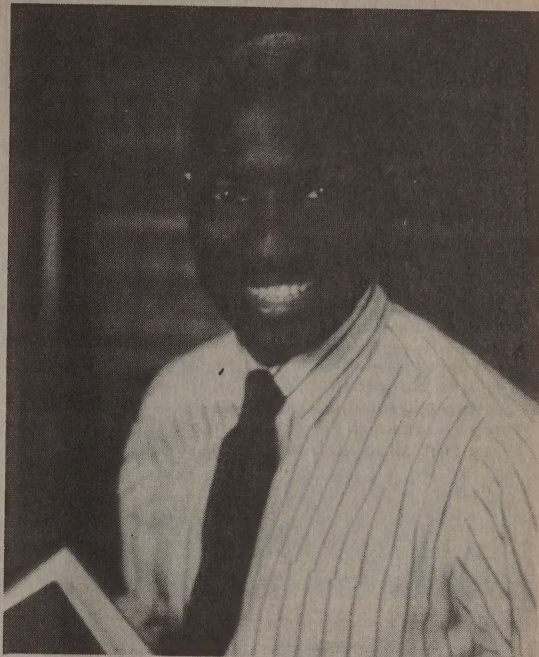
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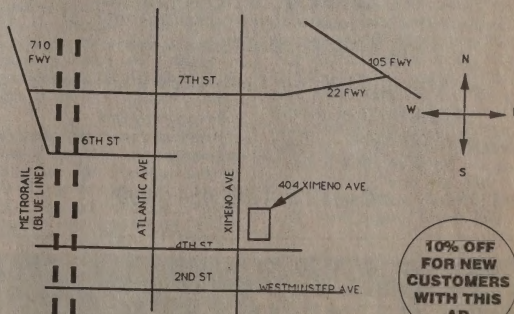
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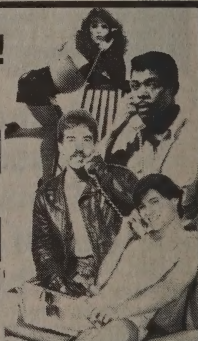
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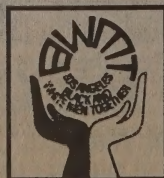
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For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will

enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

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Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call the Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Coordinator. Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, a Los Angeles-based non-profit agency, is currently seeking to fill the position of Project Coordinator for its Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education and care. The Project Coordinator will oversee the operation of all program components for the eight member consortium. The qualified applicant will also develop media strategies, act as link between consortium

members, public, private and community health organizations, and should also have fund raising and public relations skills. A college degree is desirable. However, individuals with relevant experience and a strong commitment to fighting AIDS/HIV among people of color are encouraged to apply. The annual salary for this position is \$24,000 (70% time). Please send cover letter and resume to: Phil Wilson, Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. 213-666-5495. (35)

Project Director. The San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS is accepting resumes for the position of Project Director for the Rafiki Services Project, a program to train volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to African Americans with HIV/AIDS. People of color, sexual minorities, women, disabled people and HIV infected people are encouraged to apply. For more information call 415-346-2364 or write to 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115. (35)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basic expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1½ bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, private room with telephone jack and wired for cable. \$400/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (34)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Front Room Theatre, Seattle's theatre by

and about lesbians, will be accepting scripts for consideration in January, February, and March of 1992. We are seeking scripts by lesbians, with lesbian character(s) and theme. We aim to produce two or three shows a season during '92 and '93, with at least one play per season by and about lesbians of color. We would also love to produce one or more musicals per season. Sharpen your pencils and limber up your word processors, sisters! For submission details, call 206-233-8457. Mail scripts to FRIT, 1202 E. Pike #935, Seattle, WA 98122. (35)

Unpublished work wanted for anthology, "Snap! Black Gays and Lesbians Tell It!" Looking for quality and style on a n-y aspect of black gay and lesbian life: first-person essays, fiction (7 pages maximum double-spaced), interviews of non-celebrities (elders particularly desired). There will be no response without an SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with adequate postage. Also, if possible, provide black and white photograph of yourself. Example topics: work, God, coming out, masturbation, fashion, language and music, food, Momma, houseparties, divas, bars, the streets and the news, dental dams, answering machines...life! Send to: Terri Jewell Box 23154, Lansing, MI 48909. (35)

Encyclopedia articles needed. Collier Books division of MacMillan Publishing has decided to bring out a \$20, 650-page trade paperback *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* for a mass readership, to be sold in every corner bookstore. This will be based on Garland Publications' 2-volume *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, abridged, revised, and with the addition of new entries. I am looking for scholars interested in writing short pieces for the new work on areas in which they are or could become knowledgeable. The emphasis will be on basic facts, with some discussion of theories, but with a minimum of ideology and abstruse academic controversies; on language accessible to the average reader, and on topics of general rather than purely scholarly interest. Not only will new subjects be covered (we will especially need biographical entries on living people and geographical-historical entries on cities and countries), but replacements will be sought for some of the entries in the Garland work. I especially want to encourage women, bisexuals, and members of minority groups to contribute. Some suggested entry topics (new and replacements) include: African-Americans, Alvin Ailey, S.R. Delaney, interracial, B. Rustin, Bessie Smith (write for full list to date). If you are interested in submitting a new entry, or believe you can improve on any existing entry in the Garland volumes, please contact: Stephen Donaldson, Editor-in-Chief, CEOH, 3147 Broadway #12A, New York, NY 10027. 212-666-0344. (35)

Conference Paper submissions. "Making It Perfectly Queer," the second national

interdisciplinary graduate student conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2-4, 1992. Presentations should be 8-10 pages long. People of color are encouraged to both submit proposals and attend the conference. Please submit 1-page proposals for paper by January 15, 1992, to: Cris Mayo, Department of Education Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 360 Education Bldg., 1310 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61801. (35)

Fiction, poetry, short dramas wanted. Anthology of creative writing by young gays, lesbians, and bisexuals seeks submissions. The anthology, *From Now On*, is committed to principles of balance: between men and women, among all races and ethnicities, and to artistic balance of genres, and will also consider previously published work. Send submissions with SASE and short bio to: Michael Lowenthal, Box A-164, Hanover, NH 03755. (35)

Essay contest. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Los Angeles, in support of Coming Out Day, October 11th, is sponsoring an essay contest for a first person account of a coming out experience. The coming out experience may be the writer's own or a significant person in their life, i.e. a sibling, parent or friend. The contest winners will receive cash awards of \$500, \$300, \$200 and will be announced at the PFLAG 16th year birthday party in May 1992. The contest is open to all Los Angeles County college students. People of color are encouraged to apply. For information call 213-373-4387 or write: PFLAG Essay Contest, Box 701, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. (35)

Looking for another L.L. Cool J., Queen Latifah, Markay Mark or Keith Sweat. Soliciting gay/queer-positive rap/industrial/ballads. Send demo tapes, lyric sheets to: Precipice Demos, 975 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131. (35)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteful work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Reveal your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

FOR SALE

Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33223. (35)

For the gentleman—handmade traditional, African designs. Write Ankh Enterprises, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Classified Ad Form

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

Please print and sign where indicated. None of this information will appear in your ad, but our lawyers tell us we must have it on file. "I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications."

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Address _____

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Signed _____

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☐ Check here if you would like BLK to forward responses to your printed personal ad to you for FREE.

FREE TALKING PERSONALS

You may place a printed personal ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE if you also place a FREE message on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS. Call toll-free 1-800-937-7928 to record your personal greeting. Your FREE ad and FREE personal greeting may not include a phone number or address.

If you want an ad longer than 30 words or want to include your phone number or address in your ad, please use the paid ad section of this form.

When you record your FREE personal greeting, you will be assigned a mailbox number. Write that number in the space below. Next, write the text of your ad in the space above. Your FREE printed ad will run in BLK for three issues.

You may listen to the messages left for you on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS line by calling 1-900-933-4630. The charge is only 55¢ per minute.

What is your mailbox number?

_____ (required)

PAID CLASSIFIED ADS (DO NOT USE FOR TALKING PERSONALS)

Personals which don't qualify for free and all other ads (except employment) are paid at the rate of 40¢ per word. Employment ads are 10¢ per word. Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Minimum for credit card billing is \$15. Do not send cash. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad.

You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals \$15 or more. Call toll-free 1-800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

Name of credit card _____

Expires _____

Credit card number _____



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Number of times you want your ad to run _____

Total cost of ads \$ _____

Phone verification at \$3 (within California \$1) \$ _____

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12-issue subscription at \$18 \$ _____

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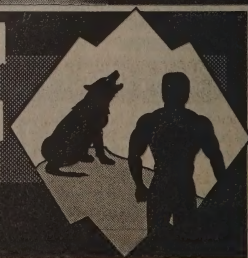


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TO PLACE A **FREE** TALKING PERSONALS AD CALL 1-800-937-7298

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (35)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discriminating man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-289-6800. (37)

Come relax and enjoy a professional full body massage by a caring young black male in a private, safe environment. Great massage, reasonable rates. Jack, 213-419-1145. (37)

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, \$5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Date by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-

900-726-2040 (\$2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/six months, \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal, all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. #1035. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. #145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

BGM, slightly chubby, cut, 23 yrs, 6'4½", closeted. You must be cut, hung 8"+, masculine, muscular, single, tall (6'+), coffee-dark skin, age 25-40, HIV-no AIDS unless celibate, like black gay porn. You must be in San Francisco, Washington D.C., L.A., or Texas area. Dele Alade, 88 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (36)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded, very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Allan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black

male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. #1019. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

White buns seek hung black stud who, like myself, is HIV-, drug free, sincere. Age, looks unimportant I'm 5'8", 150, mature, live near Oakland. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (35)

My black playmate has moved away and I need to suck black dick on regular basis. Am WM, goodlooking, fit, HIV-. Your place, some weekdays OK. Write Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (35)

GWM, 40s, 6', 180#, HIV+, 8", blond, blue, wants GBM into kinky imaginative scenes, making love, exhibitionism, voyeurism, nasty letters, phone sex, open. Write 1800 Market St. #230, San Francisco, 94102. (35)

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, home-bodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. #1047. (35)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. #1000. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. #1045. #141. (35)

San Diego Area

Mature, professional, fun-loving GBM, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B., 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone JO submissive seeks domina-

tor. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert topman (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, Gr/FRA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GBM top for friendship? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. #1040. (35)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

WM, 53, 5'9", 170, leather love, Zeff. #3101. (35)

37-year-old blond, 37, 160#, 5'11". William #3113. (35)

Very attractive GWM, 28, 5'10", 175, brbl, looking to meet extremely heavyset black guys (300+ #) for really hot times and friendship. Joe Acevedo, 837 Appellby, Venice, CA 90291. #1019. (35)

GWM likes to service black studs with nice firm butts. Sit on my face. Get down and dirty and humiliate me with your manhood. POB 86651, LA, CA 90086. Grunt! (35)

White male, 50s, 6', 179#, seeks relationship. Very affectionate, HIV-. Call Will 818-362-2022, or write Box 1252, San Fernando, CA 91340. (35)

Handsome, educated, successful mulatto, 35, 6'1", 180#, seeks young, gorgeous mulatto playmate/companion. Healthy body a must. Muscles, hung, under 25 a plus. Quality not quantity. 310-301-1666. (35)

Attractive, muscular, European, smart guy, 31, 5'10", 175#, uncut, seeks tall, very muscular and massive, black or white, intelligent bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for body worship, friendship. 213-656-2942. (35)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weightroom. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a+. #1052. (37)

Masculine GBM. Handsome, nice build, 31, 6', 190#. Independent, fun loving and affectionate. Seeking possible relationship. You: 5'9" or taller, nice build, independent

Respond to ads with a by mail. All mail is forwarded FREE.

Write the  number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:
BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

and seeking same. Call Ryan. #1001(37)
GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, muscular, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. #3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thing. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. #3026. (35)
Latino, 31, 6', 185#, looking for BGM 35-45, small built, into raunch S/M, spit, W/S. Please call, sir. 818-284-0770. (35)

Friends, mixed couples, wanted by black/Mexican couple, midforties, for friendship and fun. We enjoy all kinds of movies that could be interchanged. Your picture gets ours. Box 19543, LAX, CA 90019-0543. (35)

My name is Jarvis: BGM, 40, 5'8", 140#. Don't be fooled by my size and age. I work out seriously. Prof. Hobbies: photography, art, philosophical discourse. Ex-and current military guys are a plus. I want a friend who balances intellectual pursuits with physical fitness. #3027. (37)

An attractive Middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candell, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (35)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a Top sexually. Let me hear from you. #3031. (37)

GWM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. #3066. (37)

Black man interested in meeting other third world black men for mutual friendship and more. Your photo gets mine. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (35)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. #3038. (37)

Built WM, 33, 160#, G/P, masculine yet desire classic feminine role: nurturing, home life, cooking, cleaning, parties, etc., seeks macho black topman who is confident, affectionate and happy. #158.(35)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30 yr old GWM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well built brother that's not fat or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and travelling. #3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine topman, any race. #3106. (37)

GWM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swim-

mer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. #3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9/2", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. #3025. (37)

If you're BLK and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim: 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (35)

GWM, handsome senior, top, needs to be body-worshipped, submissive OK. Wet tongue, big mouth under 50, any race. No J.O., action only. Be prepared. Give phone # before 10 p.m.: 310-657-2804. (35)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. #3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. #1027. #148. (36)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. #3100. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped BGM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40. Let's float, let's glide as inside you I ride. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. #1030. (34)

GWM seeks GWM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/prover. Joe. #1022. #149. (37)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

GWM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No tats, fems. Photos a plus. #1020. #151.(35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-256-6833. (35)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, mustached, professional, easy-going,

sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscular defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must. Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. #1025. #152. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football-player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, aggressive and versatile for fun and friendship. #1023. #153. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive GWM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc, prof. Send # to Box 17106, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Prof. BBM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open. P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A., CA 90078. (35)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncult HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. #146. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

GWM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature person. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. #1036. #147. (35)

If you're GWM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GWM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GWM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist, and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Fat GWM, 18-30, 250-# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243. Orange 92667. (35)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM 30 yrs, quiet type, seeks GWM 25 yrs. #1008. #157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GWM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O., Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. #1001. (35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GWM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

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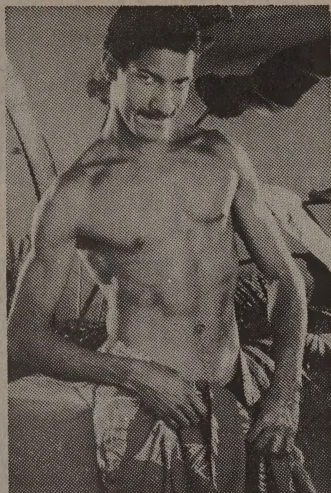
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MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. (36)

Bik/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Masculine, hung GBM. POB 10630, Chicago, IL 60610-0630. (35)

J.C. Jr., handsome G/blk/M, seeks pleasure. Write 1607 S. Sawyer, Chicago, IL 60623. (35)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tall and/or into active/passive butt licking. Write: Bob, Box 708744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½" and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 62683, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, Louisiana 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Cuban for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nights or messages. (35)

GWM, 29, 6'1", 190#, seeks hairy and/or hung BM tops coming to Boston for hot sexual encounters or letter exchange. Tim, Box 718, Sudbury, MA 01776. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ♀ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/Weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny Z, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No fats/fems. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff. ☎ 1013. ☎ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Versatile body-builder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211

Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof., clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0099. Peace. (35)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV-, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, may be relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. ☎ 1007. (35)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, indepen-

dent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ☎ 3099. ☎ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated BGM seeking same. J.W.D., 1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

-Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV-, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung toman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, HIV+, 60 yr, masculine, average ht and wt, live in DC area, seeking GBM under 40, top or bottom, non-obese, for friendship and possible one-on-one relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. ☎ 1005. (37)

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

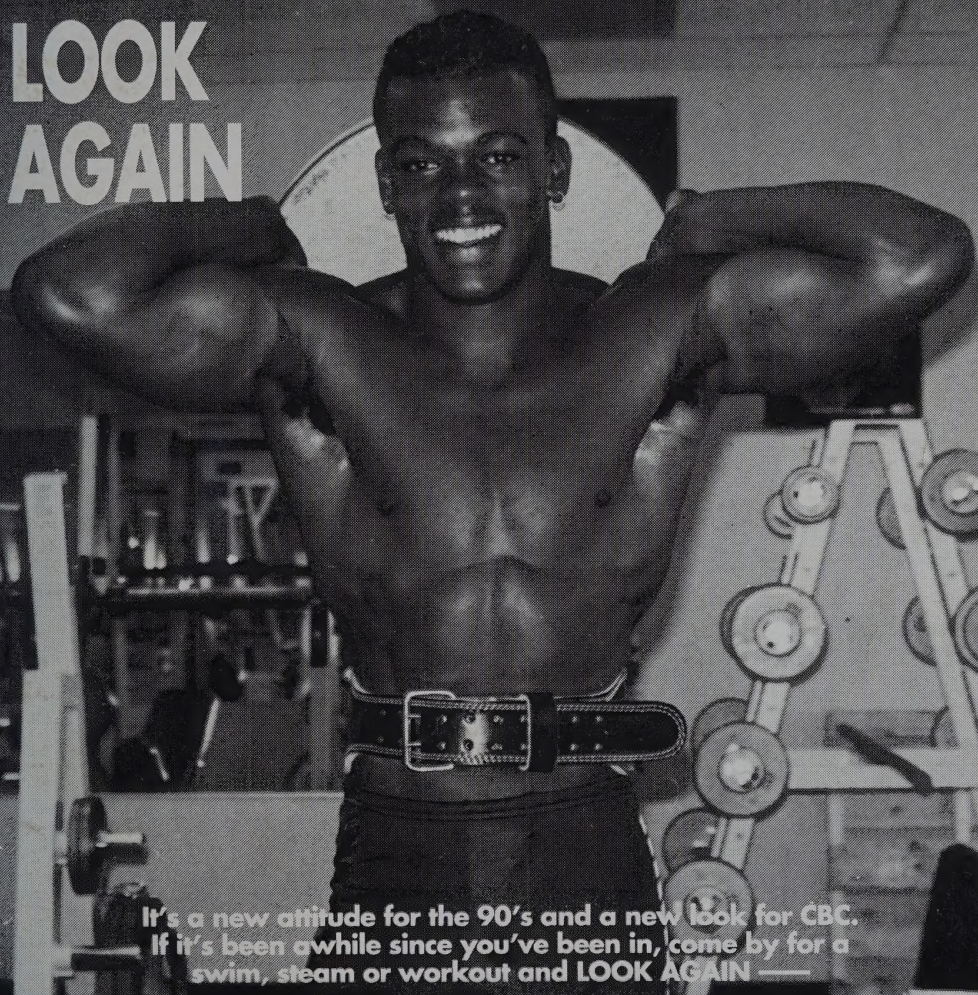
GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)



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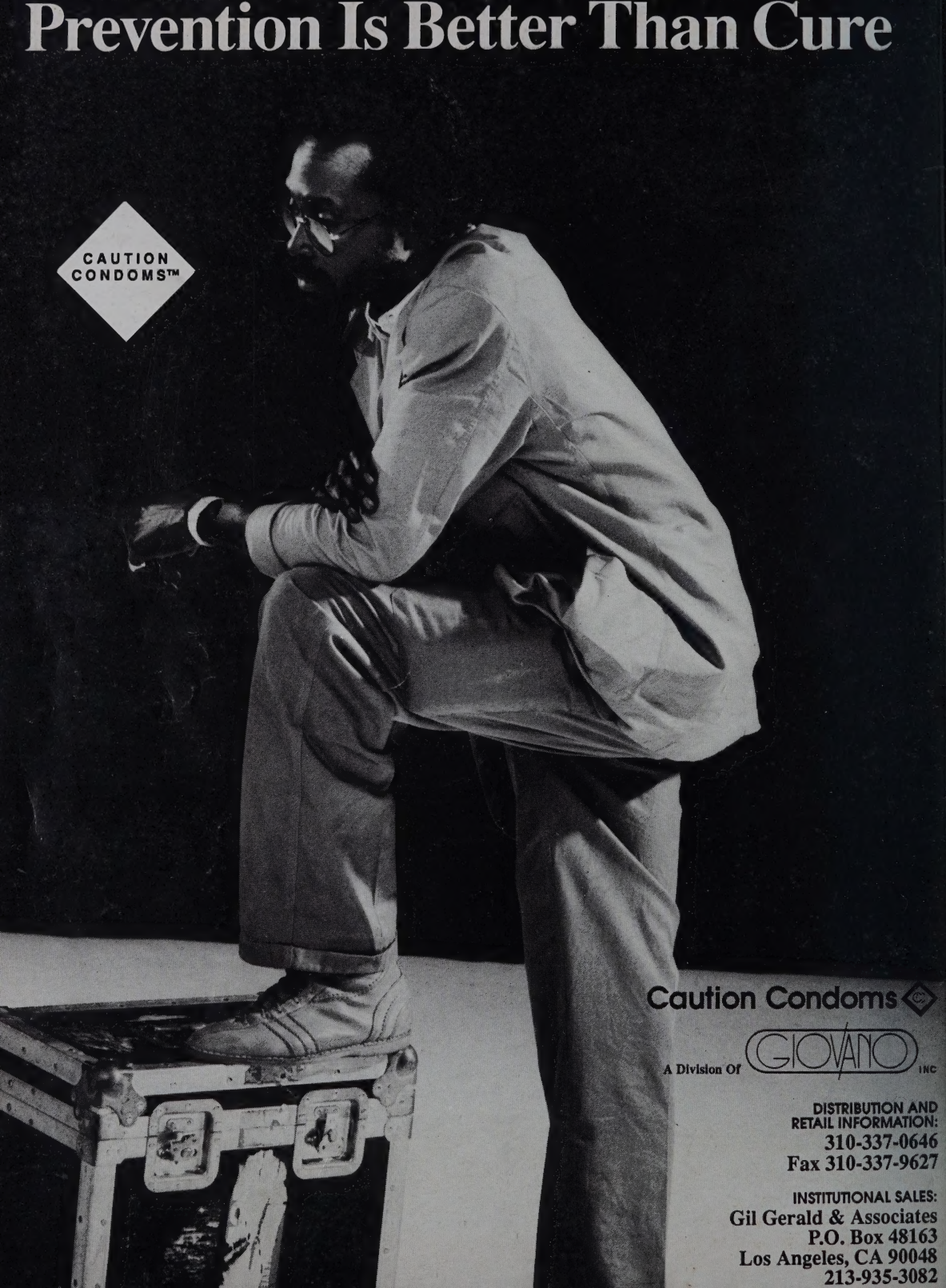
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Magic Johnson

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**"'YOUNG SOUL REBELS' MAKES
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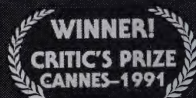
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JUMP START

BY ALAN BELL

BLK is first and foremost at what it does—covering the news of the African-American lesbian and gay communities in the United States.

Ever growing in our sophistication, expertise and reputation, BLK has worked hard to earn every ounce of respect that it has achieved over the past three years and nearly 1.1 million copies.

Just as boyz B come men and girlz women, a propitious moment in our continuous evolution is now at hand. It's time for BLK to take its rightful place on newsstands and in bookstores across the country alongside other magazines that dominate their field. We'll be right there with *Essence*, the *Advocate* and just a little bit ahead of *Ebony*.

The move to become a paid publication has been a long one. Some readers may be disappointed they will no longer be able to get for free the publication that they have correctly thought of as belonging to them, or that our new presence among the mainstream publications would mean that they have been left behind.

Our commitment to the black gay and lesbian community, excellence in journalism, to integrity in advertising sales and to comprehensiveness of coverage are several things that haven't changed, even as the rest of the paper sees a number of transformations.

Starting with the new glossy cover (no more ink on your fingers) and high

quality paper, BLK will have a new look and a new feel to it. The cover of BLK has always, since the magazine's inception, been a place of prestige, and it is only fitting and natural that it should be the best quality we could bring to you. You deserve it, we think, and we're proud to be able to give you the magazine that will grace your coffee table and office.

And especially heartening to those of you who have been waiting so patiently these last few months as we have incorporated these changes, is that BLK will now be coming out every two weeks instead of once a month. Only fitting that the news should get into your hands quicker, even more so now that BLK's new correspondents in New York and Washington, D.C. will provide more in-depth coverage of both the local scene and news of national importance.

Now you will be getting double the interviews and double the coverage that people are talking about. Mo' better news.

Hopefully, there will come a day when a major portion of BLK's news will not be related to AIDS. But so far BLK has done the job of informing the black community—long before Magic Johnson's announcement—that the heterosexual black press and the government have shirked.

Two hundred seven HIV-related articles have run in BLK, along with the statistics on HIV among African-Americans that should be required reading for those who think we spend too

much time covering the subject. In addition, our obituary column has become a chronicle of how HIV has devastated our community, as well as making a record of the lives of the men and women behind those statistics. And on a lighter but just as heavy note, there's always been at least one safe sex cartoon in each issue. AIDS education isn't just a pamphlet or a seminar or a poster.

Graphic designer Ralf-E will be coming aboard as well, bringing a bag of Apples, double page displays and too many ideas. Word-Perfect meet QuarkXpress.

In another technological breakthrough, BLK introduces its Talking Personals, the state-of-the-art in person-to-person contact. Now you will have 24-hour access to the private pages of BLK.

Because BLK has a special mandate as the information center of the black lesbian and gay community, with BLK's new information line, you'll never be further than your telephone from the community's most up-to-date listing of bars, clubs and organizations, from coast-to-coast.

BLK resisted the transition to being a paid publication for a long time because of our commitment to the community. Now, the challenge of getting BLK into eager, waiting hands mandates that we hit you up for \$1.95, the same price as *Black Enterprise* and a buck and a half less than the *Advocate*.

One not insignificant advantage of our new dis-

tribution strategy is that BLK will be available in more towns and cities than ever before. It will be in liquor stores and shopping malls that refuse throw-aways. But if you don't see BLK where you buy your favorite magazines, tell them! And tell us!

If you would like BLK delivered to your home in an envelope (and save money at the same time), subscribe. It's still the quickest and easiest way to get your own personal copy of BLK.

There will be, in addition, community centers, AIDS organizations and selected places across the country where folks can pick up complimentary copies of BLK just as they always have.

We're glad that everybody wins. Readers will get even more of the news and commentary they can't get anywhere else, from a perspective and point of view they know and trust.

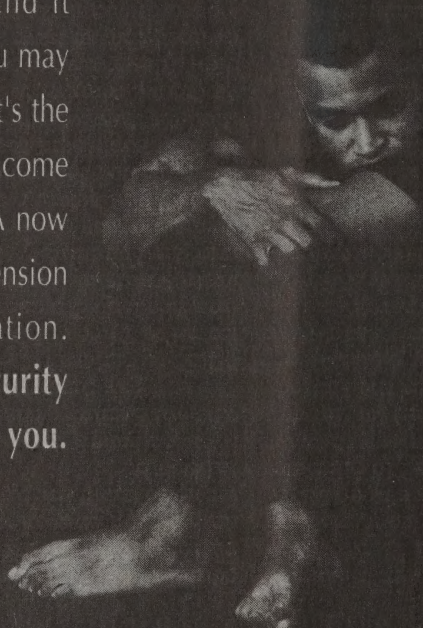
The magazine that *L.A. Weekly* called, "the best new periodical, period." The magazine that gets praise and angry letters both from Members of Congress and homies in the 'hood. The magazine where adult means mature, informed opinions. The magazine that illuminates the diversity of the African-American lesbian and gay community... That's what BLK is all about.

If you've been hungry for your next copy of BLK before, get ready for bad news.

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Living with AIDS is hard. Asking for help is sometimes even harder. But did you know that there is a program that may provide you with financial assistance and it comes from a source you may never have thought of? It's the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Call APLA now at (213) 962-1600 extension 364 for more information. **Let Supplemental Security Income Benefits help you.**



Public Benefits Forums are held the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. RSVP The Education Department (213) 962-1600 extension 540

WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

TO COLLECT AND BE SERVED

Three of the two dozen cops that stood by and watched while Rodney King got beat up by their fellow L.A.P.D. officers have filed worker's compensation claims. It seems the ordeal caused the poor unfortunates to suffer so much anxiety and stress that they can no longer work.

FINAL EXIT FOR GAY MEN

Jim Fouratt, a white gay activist and veteran of the New York club scene, and Professor Griff of the rap group, Public Enemy, got into it during one of the panels at the New Music Seminar last month.

During the panel, "Business Meeting on Racism," Fouratt asked where he fit in the fight against white supremacy "as a non-black, gay male." Stating that God didn't intend for there to be homosexuals, Griff said, "As far as where you fit in is concerned, you [should commit] suicide."

And, believe it or not, scary as it seems, the crowd applauded Griff.

FAST FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Did we hear this correctly? New Hampshire, one of the two states that does not recognize the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., has found a way to honor him without costing the taxpayers any money—so they

say.

Fast Day has been a paid holiday for New Hampshire since 1681, but alas, no more. The third Monday in April will now become "Civil Rights Day." The date the rest of these United States celebrates MLK Jr. day, on the third Monday in January, will be honored, but employees are expected to show up for work.

In 1992, incidentally, the first observance of the new Civil Rights Day holiday will fall on April 20, Adolph Hitler's birthday.

MULTICULTURALISM, EXCEPT FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

For years, Dr. Leonard L. Jeffries, Jr., chairman of the African-American Studies Department of City College of New York, has charged that the U.S. educational, legal, economic and cultural system were built around white supremacy. But he became the center of a firestorm of controversy last month over comments he made about Jewish movie moguls in a speech at a state-sponsored black arts festival in Albany, N.Y. when excerpts from his address found their way into the *New York Post*.

"For years I grew up as a youngster, just like you did, going to movies where the African peoples were completely denigrated," said Dr. Jeffries. "That was a conspiracy, planned, plotted and programmed out of Hollywood, where people called Greenberg and Weisberg

and Trigiani and whatnot. We're not being anti-Semitic to mention who developed Hollywood. Their names are there. MGM—Metro, Goldwyn, Mayer, Adolph Zukor. Fox. Russian Jewry had a particular control over the movies. And their financial partners, the Mafia, put together a system of destruction of black people."

The days and weeks that followed haven't been the best for black-Jewish relations in the Big Apple with charges and counter-charges from both sides that Dr. Jeffries was being courageous in telling the truth, or he was grandstanding to nudge along his career.

The controversy raged on not only what he said, but his right to say it. Ultimately it's one more debate over multiculturalism, political correctness and free speech, not likely to be resolved soon.

Although Dr. Jeffries has emerged as a strong advocate for multiculturalism within academia, it's not clear that his idea of inclusion extends to black lesbians and gay men.

"The whole concept of homosexuality comes out of the value system of the caves that came out of Europe," he told Dorothy Rabinowitz in an unpublished *New York* magazine interview conducted in the spring of 1990.

"That system is based on the male principle, men loving men as fighting men. That's the Valhalla. That's the Nazi. That's the Greek. That's the Roman legion. That's the Catholic Church. That's not the value system Africans gave to the world, which is the duality of male and female."

No immediate word on Dr. Jeffries's theories on lesbianism, or how he explains the existence of gay men and lesbians in African who don't have any European values.

SINGLE, GAY AFRICAN- AMERICAN FATHERS

Cartoonist Jules Felfer, known for his wry wit, has long been a thorn in the side of conservatives. Recently, he took the black gay community as a subject.

Unfortunately, Mary Suggatt at Universal Press Syndicate (4900 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112) won't let us show you the cartoon in its entirety. But if you send us (Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083) a stamped, self-addressed envelope, we'll send you a photocopy.



BLK MAIL



BASHING WHITNEY HOUSTON

Dear Editor:

After seeing the Canseco/Baines photo ["Word Up," BLK, June 1991], it becomes a mystery to me why you continue to flog a neurotic equine such as Whitney what's-her-name. The world of sports provides much more fertile ground.

Joe Shuck
Seattle

Dear Editor:

Why is it that your publication is so preoccupied in producing allegations and stories pertaining to Whitney Houston's sexual identity? Have some of your writers taken on the identity of those that have always oppressed the black gay/lesbian community? These "mini" stories about Whitney's sexual identity are in poor taste and lack black gay/lesbian community sensitivity.

Whitney Houston is a source of pride and inspiration to all folks with her creative talents in communicating with a gift that was bestowed upon her. Each time she records and gives live performances, she creates a vulnerability that few people have or wish to share regardless of how large or small the subject matter. Why should Whitney have to give all of herself when she is already giving more of herself than most folks? She deserves to maintain some of herself for herself.

Lee Middleton
San Francisco

The editor replies: Unlike most allegedly lesbian or gay celebrities who refuse to confirm or deny their sexual preference, or who deny it a few times then move on to other things, Whitney Houston has made it a point to deny it over and over and over again in as many venues as possible. That's what made the denials—not her sexuality—news. It was because she kept bringing it up (and denying it) that Leon Miller kept bringing it up (and reporting her denials). In each instance, he did not "out" her. He simply reported her latest denial.

(She no longer specifically denies the allegations. These days, she says it's no one's business, a point we can get down with.)

The lesbian folk singer doesn't talk about it. The gay television newsman doesn't talk about it. The gay comedian into drag queens doesn't talk about it. And so Leon Miller has nothing to report about these celebrities. People who don't want press shouldn't

hold press conferences.

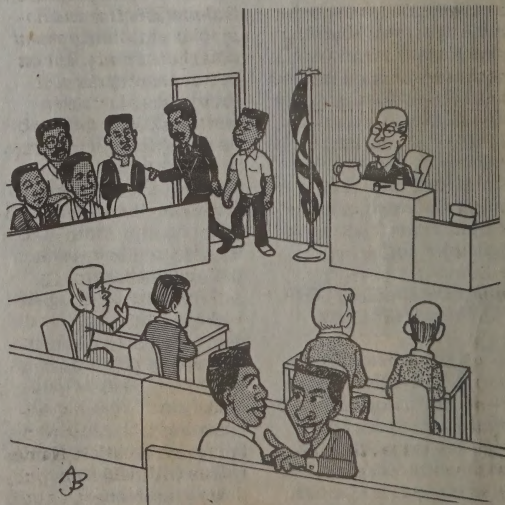
HANDSOME, BLOND SERIAL KILLER

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your article "Blacks Ponder Meaning of Dahmer" [BLK, July 1991], written by Associate Editor Mark Haile. I was immediately disturbed, when in the beginning of this article you mentioned that Dahmer was "a handsome, blond gay man, who easily lured victims to his home." Whether he was "handsome" or not is very debatable, but this seems to suggest that his victims were lured to him because of his "handsome" appearance or "blond" hair which is ridiculous, especially since 17 of the 18 victims were murdered and unable to give credence to this statement, or the psychosocial

reasons behind their involvement with this "ugly" monster. It is also interesting to note that Mr. Haile's article is the first article that I have read where a reporter, out of all the descriptive words that could have been used to describe this "man," chose to use the word "handsome" and to focus on his "blond" hair (beauty is in the eye of the beholder).

Tracy Edwards, the one brother that was able to escape Dahmer, stated in his interview with Geraldo Rivera that Dahmer repeatedly commented on "how beautiful he was" (Sound familiar?). Is Dahmer simply an extreme case of what so many black men who love men have been experiencing, from white men who have lusted after us for so long? Is Mr. Haile's observation that Dahmer was "handsome" because of his



"Looks like a hung jury."

appearance (white and blond) reminiscent of Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint's study of the black doll vs. the white doll, causing many of us, because of our oppression, to seek out the likes of Dahmer only to end up physically, mentally or culturally murdered?

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
Black Men's Xchange
Oakland, Calif.

The editor replies: Mark Haile did not write that Jeffrey Dahmer was handsome because he was white and blond, he gave two independent descriptions of the killer, "handsome" and "blond." The two words were not causally connected (i.e., blond = handsome). It is possible to be handsome and dark-haired, or blond and ugly.

Every word that appears in BLK or the New York Times or Essence or BMX publications that does not have a specific, measurable referent like 18 inches, or 27 elephants, assumes a shared body of knowledge. Not shared standards. Or agreed upon truths. But shared knowledge. We can refer to someone as "tall" and have some sense of what that means even though the term is relative and not everyone would agree on exactly how many inches constitutes "tall."

Dahmer's physical description is essential to the article because it sets a framework for the ugly events and ultimately helps answer the question, "How could something like this happen?" One reason (not the only reason, but one reason) Dahmer could entice men to his apartment is because he was not fat and ugly. (Remember, these are two separate concepts. I did not say fat = ugly.) Secondly, Dahmer's physical appearance helps explain why the

two policemen believed Dahmer when they confronted him with the naked, bleeding 14-year-old who was subsequently found dead. Not only were the white officers more likely to believe a white man, but they were more likely to believe a handsome, blond white man, than they would a fat, ugly white man. What is ridiculous is not to recognize the forces of institutional racism and looksism (and possible internalized self-hate on the part of some of the victims) at work here. Mark Haile sought to bring that consciousness to the reader by fully describing the situation. And if the other media failed to recognize the privilege that accompanies being handsome and blond in America—the same largely heterosexual, white media responsible for the creation and maintenance of a standard of beauty that is unrealistic for the majority of the human race—fault them, not us. Don't damn the messenger because you don't like the message.

Finally, for all the talk in the mainstream press about Dahmer's racism and homophobia, your comment that Dahmer might be an extreme case of the well-documented lust some white men have for black men is right on the mark.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

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ON THE COVER: Patti LaBelle. Photo by Marc Raboy.

BLK PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES Larry Duplehan appeared in West Hollywood and Silverlake to read from his contribution to *Common Voices* and his new novel, *Captain Swing*.

WASHINGTON Bob Williams has been elected BWMT's new national co-chair for the remaining term of former co-chair, John Teamer.

DALLAS Rick Pittman knows all about leather because he sells it at Shades of Grey.

SAN DIEGO Louis Sands, Bill Thompson and McCoy Fuller are part of AIDS Foundation San Diego's Street Outreach Team.

LOS ANGELES Ayofemi Folayan, writer, performance artist and activist, has been awarded an artist-in-residence grant from the California Arts Council to teach "Writing as a Healing Art" classes at the department of education of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

CHICAGO Carol A. Johnson, Ortez Alderson and Max C. Smith were inducted into the city's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame during a ceremony hosted by Mayor Richard Daley.

DETROIT Wayne Preston Chambers was the guest on the *Ningé Zola Show* on WDET, performing a piece from his one man performance, *Triptych*.

LOS ANGELES Lamond Ayers, Gilberto Gerald, Rashidah Hassan, A. Billy S. Jones, Juan Ledesma, Steve Lew, Mike Moreno, Sabrina Sojourner, Reggie Williams, Phill Wilson and Donald Woods were among the

speakers at the National Skills Building Conference, Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 at the University Hilton.

NEW YORK Writers Rory Buchanan, Reginald T. Jackson, Charles R. P. Pouncy and Donald Woods read from their works Sept. 15 at Kinapps new hair salon in downtown Manhattan. The program also featured vocal performances by Dana Rose and Dawud.

RICHMOND, Va. Mandy Carter, lesbian activist, was keynote presenter and emcee of September Richmond Pride Festival.

NEW YORK Aaron Ashby is the community relations planner for Gay Games IV/Unity '94.

WICHITA Delores Berry, vocalist, preacher and UFMCC minister, held a gospel concert at First Church on Sept. 7.

PHILADELPHIA Rodney Dooley of Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force distributed information to visitors during Unity Day.

WISCONSIN Dominique Mahon, Miss Gay Continental Wisconsin, represented her state for the Miss Continental title in Chicago over the Labor Day Weekend.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Sylvia Rhue met with producers of the hit NBC comedy *Dear John* to consult for the program on the lesbian character that is considered to be one of the best gay or lesbian characters on TV. Dr. Rhue was also interviewed by *TV Guide* and *Entertainment Tonight* about her participation in the program.

DALLAS Raps hosted the second annual Miss North Texas of America pageant in August. First runner-up was Lady P.T. and second runner-up was Lysha Carey.

AUSTIN Check the turntables at Nexus and you might find DJ Misha Spruell.

NEW YORK Bill T. Jones is the director/choreographer of the NYC Opera production, *Mother of Three Sons*.

BOSTON Tina Portillo is editor of *Dykescapes*, an anthology of short fiction by lesbians published by Alyson.

CHARLESTON, S.C. Earth Carroll was the prime mover behind the Women of Color National Network and Conference formed following the National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta.

HOUSTON Ricky Phillips at the Chateaux Dijon rental office will show you the apartment complex's various floor plans.

CHICAGO Bartenders George Flagg and Shay Ramirez are on hand to serve at Pangea.

PHILADELPHIA Video-maker Cheryl Dunye was profiled in the *Advocate* in September.

WASHINGTON Thomas Gleaton has been selected to head the Inner City AIDS Network following the resignation of Alexander Robinson.

DALLAS County Commissioner John Wiley cast the only vote against moving a controversial polling place from the Gay Community Center. Critics had demanded the move because

of low voter turnout.

CHICAGO Competing in the Mr. Windy City Contest are Christopher Fagan, Mr. Jeffrey Pub; Harrison Townsend, Mr. Clubhouse and Jim Murray, Mr. Chicago House.

WASHINGTON Poet Venus Thrash read from her works at Encore recently.

BOULDER, Colo. San Franciscans Earl Bryant and Frank Demby were among the athletes competing in the fifth Rocky Mountain Masters Track and Field Championship.

SAN FRANCISCO Speaking at a Sept. 7 forum on AIDS sponsored by the California/Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church decried the AIDSphobia he saw in the African American church.

SAN ANTONIO Adrian Hill is the new volunteer receptionist at the San Antonio AIDS Foundation.

MILWAUKEE Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the site of Jeffrey Dahmer's murder spree, held a press conference and a memorial service while offering support to the lesbian and gay community.

NEW YORK Grace Jones was interviewed in the *Advocate* in September.

SEATTLE Bob Carter is the new program director for the Youth Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young people.

MINNEAPOLIS Stephen Wade is the new clinical supervisor for the gay and lesbian counseling unit at Family and Children's Service.

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La Belle Epoque

The BLK Interview
by D. J. Marius

It's not every day that you pick up the phone and a legend speaks. "Hello. This is Patti LaBelle. Am I too early, too late or what?"

Patti LaBelle has been "on time" in nearly everything she's ever done. Her career has moved in so many different directions that some may have lost sight of her momentarily, but she always seems to arrive when and where she's s'posed to be.

Recording artist, humanitarian, actress (movies, television, Broadway), wife, mother, mentor, diva! Born in Philadelphia in 1944, LaBelle's interest in the arts manifested itself early. Southwest Philly buzzed in the '50s and '60s with the sounds of jazz, gospel, soul and funk cross-pollinating one another, and Patti was a busy bee. Although at school she did drama, glee club and track, her singing in the Beulah Baptist Church choir pointed in the direction of her future.

The doo-wop musical era raided the choir, and led to the formation of the "girl group" Patti LaBelle & the Bluebells, composed of LaBelle, Nona Hendryx, Sarah Dash and Cindy Birdsong (whose future lay with the Supremes). Their very first hit single was "I Sold My Heart (to the Junkman)" in 1962. Rock 'n roll fans chose them to be one of the girl groups of the period, and sent them to Europe to gather momentum.

From there Patti moved on to the ground-breaking, outrageous trio LaBelle. Sarah, Nona and Patti turned the limelight into starlight as they welded together incredibly diverse audiences—black, white, straight, gay—in the name of "live" (in more ways than one) entertainment. LaBelle the group climbed the charts and balanced on the pinnacle of success, whereupon LaBelle the singer found herself dizzy and decided it was time for a break. She spent time with her family, time with herself and decided to blaze a path to success rather than merely follow one.

On the strength of advice from her manager (and husband of 21 years), Armstead Edwards, and

LaBelle's longtime producer and musical director, "Budd" Ellison, she went solo.

And she went on stage. She joined Al Green in Vinette Carroll's *Your Arms Too Short To Box With God*, where her gospel and dramatic powers got into full harness with her voice. The Broadway hit took her on tour all over the country and back to Europe.

Musically, LaBelle also branched out, working with a wide variety of performers, either as a guest vocalist or as part of a duet. Grover Washington, Jr., Bobby Womack and Michael McDonald come to mind when recalling some of her more memorable musical collaborations. It is also widely known that she enjoys a very special relationship with Luther Vandross—one of the few male singers who can match her vocal power and ability to whip crowds into a frenzy. Live performances suit LaBelle perfectly. On the NBC's Emmy-winning *Motown Salutes the Apollo*, she stopped the show in a stunning duet with Michael Bolton.

Out of the limelight, she's "just Patti." Ever one to give, she is involved in a number of charities, including Big Sisters of America, Save the Children, the College Fund and groups working for foster care

Having recently lost both parents and three disease is a particularly strong commitment. serves as national spokeswoman for the Black Research Foundation, an organization battling premature death among African-

We find Patti LaBelle in 1991 in charge of her life, a sophisticated yet boisterous existence, finely tuned, operating at full throttle. Excess went out with the '80s, and Patti has changed with the times. No more tubular nails, fanned-out hairdos or Alcoa Wrap costumes. "Just Patti" is just right the way she is, the way she's become—looking and sounding better than ever.

Black lesbians and gay men are possessive about Patti. We feel we own her. No, we weren't first to discover her, just first to love her. We didn't give her her start, but we kept her going. When others said she was too frenzied, too flashy, too crossover, we called for more, more, more. There's something about the way she struts and grabs and wants to be loved that we understand. Patti speaks out language. And is heard. For us, there's no question about what time it is. It's Patti time, and we live in the gayest of eras, LaBelle Epoque.

United Negro
and battling AIDS.
sisters, fighting
She currently
Health
dedicated to
Americans.



The last time we saw you perform in the Bay Area, you had on a silver two-piece outfit that Donna Karan had done especially for you, and you were wearing it!

(laughs) Yeah, those are very nice and easy things to work in. You know, understated in a way, without being outrageous, which I've been staying away from as much as possible.

Are you taking a new direction?

Yes. You know, the hair and the clothes, and all those wonderful things, I mean, I've done them. And then to keep on doing them, you can't repeat yourself too much.

Tell us about your career, and where you think you've come thus far. It seems as though you've done it all, seen it all, been everywhere.

Well, I've done a lot. And I can say that I'm pleased with the things that I've done, and very blessed and fortunate to be able to do the things that I'm doing. And always to be asked to do interviews, and to do TV, and to do radio, and to do concerts. The way it is now for women my age (LaBelle is 47), it's really hard to get *arrested* these days. I just thank God for everything that I have coming my way, and things seem to, you know, keep coming.

Do you think that's because the business is more competitive now, or more image-intensive?

It's not that it's competitive, it's just that people are... it's just hard to get something these days, as far as a record deal. Record companies aren't taking too many chances. Money is scarce, and if they're going to give you the chance, they have to know you can deliver. It's just really rough.

Let's get into your rapport with your audience. You are truly like no other performer. In concert, it's almost like you're having these people over to your house.

I know. That's what it feels like. When I do go on stage, every night that I perform, I

*It's a
disease!
And the
folks
who
can,
they
just
have to
give it
up, and
I'm
talking
about
the
bucks!*

leave saying "Thank you" to the audience because they made my day, and my night. They've given as much, or more, than I've given them. I mean, they give me so much love, so much emotion, and so much appreciation that I just feel like I can't wait to get on stage every night.

And I go out there intending to bring people together. Like, if there are black people and white people out there, which there always are. If there are gay and straight people, I always go out with the intent of making the straight person sitting next to the gay, end up not feeling so afraid of them, or afraid of the black that's sitting next to them. I mean, letting them see that we all can be one if we try...you know, it's not hard.

You've said before that some "rough children" come to your shows.

Yeah, everybody. I mean, it's a melting pot. You know, I have a very blessed crowd, from all ages and everything. I have *all* kinds of people out there. That's what I love about my audience.

What kind of things do you do to get your audiences involved in the show?

Well, when I do sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" or "You Are My Friend" or "Imagine," sometimes I've seen audiences cry together, or pass the hankie down. You know, they just feel it together. I can't really explain it...I probably didn't even answer your question! *(laughs)* You know, it's from the heart. It's really from my *heart*. I know that sometimes they end up on stage on "Lady Marmalade" together, sharing the microphone, and just sharing the space. It just shows you that we can share things. We can do things together.

People get a little too carried away. They think it's their show!

I don't mind, let 'em! For that moment, they can...and it is, for that moment, their show. And I don't mind giving it up. I don't mind!

Let's talk about some of your long-standing friendships. You have a great relationship with Dionne Warwick and Gladys Knight. How did that start?

Well, we've known each other forever. Gladys had the idea to do *Sisters in the Name of Love* (the TV special starring all three). She called on Dionne and myself, and we both said yes because it was a great idea. And it's showing, too, that black women can work together, you know, without beating each other up.

When Gladys was on the cover of *Es-sence*, she talked about your friendship, noting that you are a very "at home" type of person, that you love being at home with your family, and that Dionne was very "Beverly Hills."

Well that's what I am, very much a homebody. I just finished cooking dinner, then I called you. I just love doing this kind of stuff.

It's too bad we're not there in person!

I know! It's good, too!
(laughs)

What do you like to cook. What are some of your best dishes?

I love making pasta. With

*I got a
whole
lotta
butt to
kick.*

so much garlic, basil and oregano. And hot stuff! But I do really good Italian.

How do you find time with all the traveling and performing?

It's in my blood. And, you always find time ...I mean, there are 24 hours in a day. You use 22, and have two to do something else. (laughs)

Arsenio Hall started his career on the road touring with you.

Yes. He opened the shows in Vegas and Atlantic City. He needed management, so my husband managed him for a while. We were very close with him, and we're still good buddies. And he thanks me a lot for some of the things that he's gotten in this business because of the ways he's watched me. Like, he watched on the side every night...he would stand on the side every night and watch my rapport with the audience, so that he learned a lot from watching. I'm happy that he got something out of it!

Your husband manages you also.

Yes, he does.

Your relationship is famous. It's weathered everything that your career has gone through. What's been the key to that?

The key to our staying together is that we ignore each other! (burst of laughter) No, actually when he comes in from work, he goes upstairs, and I'm in the



basement usually. He'll eat his dinner, and we'll talk for a few minutes. He'll go to bed, and I'll stay up all night! When he gets up in the morning, I'm in bed. We see each other and we talk, but he's a very good man. So, I'm just joking when I say we ignore each other. We don't have any problems, we're pretty blessed.

How old is Zuri (her youngest son) now?

Zuri is seven...Zuri's 17.

A man, huh?

Un huh!

We remember when he was born...

Yeah... *(laughs)* Oh yeah. I'm serious, he's a big, fine man now.

He's the youngest...how old are the other two boys?

You know what? I am so bad with that! My two adopted sons are 26 and 31, I think. And they're gonna kill me if I'm wrong! But my niece and my nephew (Stacey and Billy), who are now my kids also, are 25 and 27, I think.

With Zuri being the youngest, how was it for him having you on the road? Did he go with you?

Yes, he went with me. A lot of the time, my husband would bring him out. If not, my husband would be here with him. He never felt neglected. We were always able to work out my schedule so that I could still be the mother...and the singer.

So it wasn't hard for him to share you with the world?

At times, it probably was hard for him but he moved right along! He didn't give me any demands, thank God. He's pretty cool.

Let's talk about your prominence in the gay community, especially the African-American gay community. Why do you think there has been such a strong link?

I don't know. And I've never questioned it.

PARTIAL DISCOGRAPHY

**"I Sold My Heart
(to the Junkman)"**
(single)
Patti LaBelle
& the Bluebells

"LaBelle"
LaBelle
(Warner Bros.)

"Moon Shadow"
LaBelle
(Warner Bros.)

"Pressure Cooker"
LaBelle
(RCA)

"Nightbirds"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Phoenix"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Chameleon"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Released"
Patti LaBelle
(Epic)

"The Spirit's In It"
Patti LaBelle
(Epic)

"Winner In You"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"Be Yourself"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"This Christmas"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"Burnin'"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

I just hope it always stays. I just don't know...maybe they relate to my honesty, or my outrageousness. I don't really know what it is...I don't know!

Everything that we've heard concerns the fact that you're so real and so down-to-earth.

Well, I hope that's what it is, and I hope to always be that way. Real and down-to-earth, never holding anything back...being myself...and never discriminating. I don't really know why, but I do have this wonderful following.

The hair is there, the drag, the show, everything but they know there's a real Patti underneath, and that's the key. They come to see you.

They really do, and I feel really good about it. You can't buy that...it's better than a Grammy!

Are you good friends with Magic Johnson? Do you know him well?

Yes, I know him well... *(long pause)* and I feel awful about it (Johnson's recent disclosure about being HIV-positive). And I guess this is the way that God has...well, you know, maybe he's a tool to help wake up everybody. It's sad that it had to happen this way, but I guess the Lord works in mysterious ways. It's a shame that people were so ignorant before this...and maybe that wouldn't have happened. You just never know...I feel really badly about it. But hopefully, people will start doing something now.

We can hope, and Magic probably feels, that good will come out of it still. You were also very close with Sylvester and very instrumental in his career.

Oh yeah. My man, Sylvester. He looked more like a woman sometimes than me! I'm serious, honey, when he put on that stuff...I looked at a few pictures of him and said, "Is that me?" *(laughs)* No, sometimes I would look at Sylvester and think it was me...I did! I loved Sylvester.

One of your album's liner notes said, "Sylvester, you will never be forgotten!"

That's for sure...never!

What are some of the things that someone in your position, who has an influence on young people, can do to educate young African-Americans on the HIV virus?

Well, we can start talking to them much, much more, and saying things that Magic has to say now. We can say the things that he's saying now, not that it's happened to some of us, but put ourselves in his position. Let the kids know that it could easily happen to us...it could easily happen to them. It's something that we can't play with, I mean, falling in love sometimes today is like falling in death. It's just... scary. It could happen to anybody. People have been so prejudiced and awful about it because they've always heard that it was a gay disease, or a black disease, or a drug user's disease. It's a *disease*. We all have to wake up and smell the coffee, and just start being a little more aware of what we do to ourselves, and how we do it and who we do it with. And, the folks who can, they just have to give it up, and I'm talking about the bucks! They know who they are!

What are some of the charities that are near to your heart?

All of 'em...AIDS, cancer, homelessness, adoption, Save The Children. Anything you could name, I think I'm involved!

You've lost people very close to you to cancer in pretty rapid succession. Can you talk about how you were able to carry on?

I just knew that I had to keep on going. I knew they really would want me to. They would not want me sitting around here moping and feeling sorry for myself. I know that their memory will always be here. It's their memories that keep me going. You know, they were very proud of me, and it's hard everyday, of course it's hard. But, you get up and do what you have to do.

You lost two of your sisters to cancer?

Three.

Patti (right) with hairdo creator Norma Harris Gordon.



*Falling
in love
today is
like
falling
in
death.*

And your father recently?

My mother and father, to Alzheimer's and a stroke.

It does take a terrible toll, but you know that wherever they are, they would want you to continue.

Oh, of course they do. And I'm not gonna let them down. I got a whole lotta butt to kick.

What was the first single as Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells?

"I Sold My Heart (to the Junkman)."

Since then, you've moved in so many different directions...LaBelle was totally out there! Mom wouldn't let us go see LaBelle because you were too wild! And Lady Marmalade had to be kept hidden because Mom wasn't going for that either.

Not at all! (laughs) We were totally outrageous! Yeah, those were the days.



Art Director: Ann Wong. Copywriters: Ann Wong & Susan Sidel. Typography: Downtown. Photo: Permission granted by Lucille Ball Productions and Serge Mottier and executor of Vivian Vance Estate. Photo Courtesy: Neil Peters Collection.

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How did your appearances on *A Different World* come about?

Debbie Allen. She asked me to do some acting and I said yes. I'm glad I did, because I really enjoy it. We have another one coming out on the 21st of November.

Is this the show with Diahann Carroll?

Yes.

How was working with her?

Very nice. She's a wonderful lady.

You've known each other for quite a while?

Yeah, we've known each other, but we would see each other at affairs. This is our first time working together. It's gonna be fun.

What's on the horizon for you? I remember your role in *A Soldier's Story*. Do you want to do more films?

Oh yes, I'll do more films. If the right script comes along, I'll definitely do more. Right now, I'm gonna concentrate on the music.

If there was one thing that you could accomplish right now, something that you haven't done that you've always wanted to do, what would it be?

Take a big wand, and wave it over the world and wipe out prejudice. That's something that I've not done...that's what I'd like to do. And wipe out hunger, and wipe out AIDS. *(long pause)* And cancer...I would just like to wipe out disease and racism. And all prejudice. Like I said, so many people are prejudiced against this, and against that...prejudiced against gays, prejudiced against blacks. If we could just wipe out some of that hatred, that's what I'd like to do that I haven't done. But, I don't really think I'm gonna get a wand big enough to do that, so I'll keep hoping.

As you look back on the wide variety of material you've done, is there a favorite album or single of yours?

*I know
Magic
well. I
guess
this is
the way
that
God
has...
maybe
he's a
tool to
help
wake up
every
body.*

I don't listen to any of my albums. I don't listen to any of my music once it's out, unless it's to learn a song. *(laughs)* I'm serious, I really don't listen to my music. Once it's done, it's done. You know, I've loved everything I've done, but I don't go back and listen to too many things.

Who are some of the artists that you're listening to now?

I don't listen to anybody. I don't have a stereo! *(laughs)* I don't play music at all. My husband has one, and my son, but I don't know how to work their stuff! *(laughs again)* And I really don't play music! Honestly, I don't, and that's awful. But like I said, when I'm at home, I cook and I clean, and I look at TV. Or I will sleep! When I'm in a car, I'll listen to the radio, but that's usually as far as it goes.

What do you want people to know about Patti LaBelle...When they hear your name, see your show, or listen to your album?

I want them to be left with the fact that they just witnessed a very honest woman, doing everything from the heart and giving 110 percent. And...just hoping that I've entertained you. I really would like for people to leave being thoroughly entertained, and *thoroughly* pleased. I would hate for anyone to leave, and want to go back to the counter to get their money back.

We doubt that would ever happen...

I hope not, but I think about that a lot. I always leave thinking, did I give them enough? That's what I really want you to leave with...enough of Patti LaBelle.

What color toilet paper do you use?

White! *(burst of laughter)* So there's a whole 'nother thing of black and white...the black butt with white paper! *(laughs again)* You know I'm not prejudiced! And two-ply! Two-ply, white toilet paper!

No discrimination there!

No! You know, I do have white paper...it goes with everything, it doesn't clash. It goes real good with black!

"The people who live in the 8th Council District must elect a City Council member who respects their cultural differences and understands their common needs and fears," said Phil Reed, who ran for the seat in September. The native Harlemite has been an impressive community activist for years; impressive because the boundaries of his community are no less philosophical than they are geographical. "Where we are Hispanic, white, African-American, Asian, Jewish, gay, lesbian, straight, rich, middle-income or poor," Reed continued, "we are all New Yorkers and we must work together to make this city strong again."

What comes close to sounding like a laundry list is actually an accurate tally of Reed's constituency as a Democratic District Leader from Manhattan's Upper West Side. The neighborhood is a highly integrated portion of the greater 8th Council District he was campaigning to represent.

The 8th Council District comprises large sectors of both the Upper West and East Sides, El Barrio, Manhattan Valley, Park West Village, the South Bronx and all of Central Park. Its total population is approximately 53 percent Latino, 31 percent black, 14 percent white and two percent Asian. It is also a district whose boundaries the Justice Department has criticized.

City charter changes approved by voters in 1989 reshaped the city's 35 Council districts to create 51 districts. The stated purpose of the redistricting was "to make the City Council more representative of the city's many diverse communities," according to official New York City Finance Board literature. But a press release from Reed's campaign office regarding the 8th District asserted that the boundaries were settled only after extensive discussion of how to maximize Latino voting strength in the District.

"Increasing the percentage of Latino voters is impossible," said Matt Benson, Reed's campaign manager. "Unless the Justice Department wants to cut up neighborhoods and housing projects in violation of their own guidelines."

Reed agrees. "The Justice Department's criticism of the 8th Council District boundaries is a transparent attempt to pit Hispanic residents against their Afro-American and white neighbors," he said. "The Republican administration in Washington will have a hard time convincing conscientious voters throughout the District that they should just accept any candidate, like Bill Del Toro, just because he's Latino, regardless of whether that candidate is honest and competent," he said in reference to a leading challenger, William Del Toro, an East Harlem District Leader who was once convicted for misuse of federal anti-poverty funds.

Apart from being born and raised in Harlem and the Upper West Side, Reed has years of community activism under his belt. As president of a Harlem block association in 1982, he led the community in reclaiming the northern end of Central Park and secured more than \$300,000 in City funds for park restoration. More recently, Reed, who is openly gay, has coordinated political campaign efforts with Gays and Lesbians for Jesse Jackson in 1984 and 1988, and Gays and Lesbians for David Dinkins in 1989. Beyond the borders of his home turf, Reed also is coordinator of the East New York HIV/AIDS Project in Brooklyn, which he founded. His platform advocated, among other things, supervised needle exchange, making hate crimes a felony, domestic partnership legislation and U.S. distribution of RU-486, which induces early abortions.

Nine candidates vied for the seat. Among the contenders for the 8th Council District seat were Adam Clayton Powell IV, son and namesake of the late Harlem congressman, who received the endorsement of the Majority Coalition for a New New York.

Reed's own supporters were as impressive as they were numerous. They included elected officials such as State Assembly members Deborah Glick, Jerry Nadler and Ed Sullivan; community leaders Sandy Lowe, Larry Kramer, Ronald Johnson and even Tom Duane, who was himself a candidate for City Council in District 3; and organizations such as the Broadway Democratic Club, Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats and the National Women's Political Caucus.

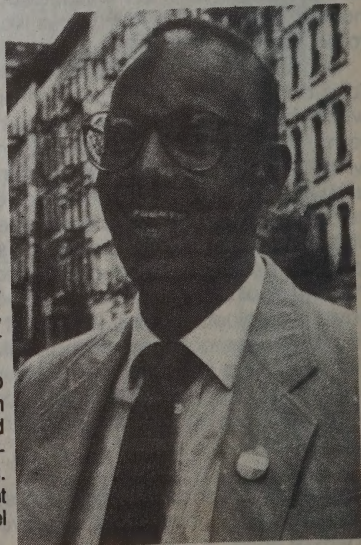
Congressman Ted Weiss, who served for 15 years on the City Council from 1961 to 1976, also backed Reed. "I have worked with him closely on many issues affecting our community," said Weiss. "Phil Reed's commitment to progressive values and the politics of inclusion make him the clear choice in the 8th District." Weiss added, "Phil Reed has all the right qualities—intelligence, compassion, dedication—to get the job done."

Despite these credentials, on Sept. 12, Reed was not one of the top two vote-getters. Del Toro came in first with only 34 more votes than Powell. But lawsuits were promptly filed charging election fraud. Reed did a mailing to voters accusing Del Toro of stalling. On Oct. 22 appellate judges ordered a re-run between Del Toro and Powell for Oct. 28. Although 14,000 voters had cast ballots on Sept. 12, only 8,000 went to the polls again on Oct. 28. This time Powell decisively defeated Del Toro by a 72 percent to 28 percent margin.

PHIL REED

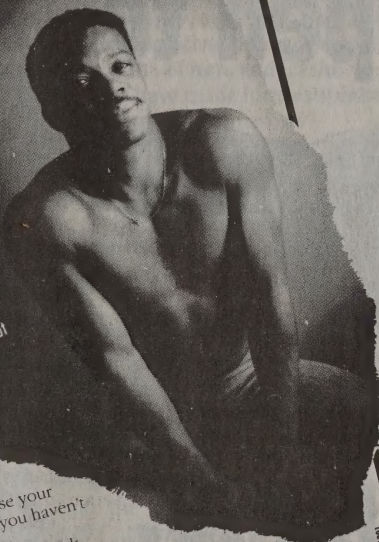
A good race, but not good enough

BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON



I JUST WANT A GOOD TIME.

"Keeping my commitment to safer sex can be hard - sometimes I just want to forget all about it. But I know I've got to do it, no matter what. So I look to my friends for support. It helps to talk about it. Nobody said this would be easy. But then nobody said I was going to feel this good about myself!"



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**“It can
happen to**

**anybody.
Even me,
Magic
Johnson.”**

By Mark Haile



By three o'clock in the afternoon, when Earvin "Magic" Johnson was to announce his retirement from basketball brought about by his testing positive for HIV, possibly all of America—certainly all of Los Angeles—already knew.

For hours, telephones, faxes and radio stations had burned with speculation in search of confirmation. Icarus had fallen. All work came to a stop. Every television station in the city interrupted their programming to cover the press conference. No one dared not care.

Johnson spoke of the need for rational thinking, calling for compassion without hysteria or undue concern, speaking with candor and frankness—up to the point of discussing his seroconversion. He would not be a "victim" at all, but pour his energies into preventative education. He was already obviously keen on how he alone might reach hundreds of thousands of young people—especially young African-Americans—for whom AIDS still remained someone else's disease. But no longer.

In one of his media tailored tirades, ACT-UP founder Larry Kramer had suggested that every agency in the country working with HIV infected people close down and allow the bodies of those with AIDS to pile up on the capitol steps. Of course, over 300 years of stacking the bodies of Africans and their descendants has not yet moved Congress, but fortunately, Magic's disclosure of his HIV status had done in seconds what AIDS activists had labored for a decade to do. Every American family now knew and cared about someone who was living with HIV, someone they could not shut the door on. More importantly, sports pages were explaining how the virus was transmitted. T-cell counts were added to the sports stats. Youth groups were discussing how to protect themselves from HIV, right down to how latex condoms were better than lambskin and why.

All of America asked at once, what do you say when someone you care for has just tested positive for HIV? And all of America got their answer back at once: you hug them and reassure them, and reassure

them again, that you'll be by their side.

Just to put the issue (presumably) to rest, Magic reiterated his heterosexuality at the press conference and again the following evening on nationwide television with his long time friend, Arsenio Hall. Fans in the audience applauded when Magic assured them he was not gay, a peculiar reaction to some. It was imperative for Magic's fans to continue to think of him, and all the attributes that have made him a superstar, a hero, and a very wealthy man, as heterosexual attributes. Yet Magic was not able—or not willing—to explain that to call himself not gay did not automatically equal anti-gay, to the discernment of lesbians and gay men everywhere. Whether heterosexual, bisexual, closeted or asexual, it was a dumb PR move.

At least, judging by his appearance on *Arsenio*, it seemed clear Magic's newfound status was not to be mistaken as sympathy for gay men with AIDS. As profound a difference as Magic Johnson made within the first 24 hours, even the first ten minutes of his revelation, it will probably do more to disassociate the stigma of homosexuality from people suffering with the disease than to actively further the cause of gay rights. That difference could be bridged by Magic himself in the months and years ahead.

Magic Johnson is far from a Hollywood celebrity who might embrace and abandon causes on a whim. He is first of all living with his new cause; and second, benefitting from treatment, knowledge and a support system put into place by many thousands of lesbians and gay men. For all the millions in the bank that mean Magic will never wait for hours in an overcrowded waiting room at 5P21, he has already acknowledged how it has come to be that there was any kind of treatment, medicines, protocol or counseling available for his condition. It's not up to Magic Johnson to personally pull out a checkbook and ensure that the Minority AIDS Project will be

"Because of the HIV virus I have obtained, I will have to retire from the Lakers today. I do not have the AIDS disease. My wife is fine. She's negative. I plan on going on living for a long time and going on with my life."

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solvent, although he easily could, as much as it is important that he create a climate for a hundred organizations in minority communities to exist without the day to day struggle against ignorance and fear that dogged the pioneers in the first decade where America dealt with AIDS. Witness the power of Magic *merely saying* he would start a foundation to help fight the epidemic: within 48 hours he had received a half million dollars—without having asked anyone for a penny. This while patients with HIV line the hallways in inner city hospitals and some agencies struggle to keep their doors open.



At the National Minority AIDS Council's Annual Skills Building Conference, held in Los Angeles a week before Magic's disclosure, 600 activists and health care providers, doctors and people living with HIV shared all of their hard-won information with each other with a sense of urgency. That the epidemic was aimed at young people and at people of color was not news to them. That the government dragged its feet with its head in the ground was old news as well. That every agency in the AIDS field had to stretch money to do far more than was capable of doing, was already a reality for these people. They didn't pray for miracles; no one asked for a spokesperson to come forth like Magic Johnson. If Magic, through his silence, fails to include lesbian and gay communities of color, then they may find themselves, still, left out of the windfall.

One of the epidemics within the epidemic has been the community known to the HIV education experts as "non-gay identified men who have sex with men." Living just outside the reach of most of the agencies working with the lesbian and gay community, *especially* with the communities of color, getting the word out to them of their special risk status has been an exceptional challenge. Until Magic, there was no one who spoke to them, who looked like them, had their values, their language—and to listen to the hushed voices around Los Angeles, was maybe even one of them.

The white gay media relentlessly pursuing Magic's sexuality with fervor equal

to that of the supermarket gossip rags, has forgotten or disregarded certain points that make Magic's non-disclosure of same-sex sexual experiences particularly important.

First, that there is a construction of sexuality far more elaborate than mere "straight" and "gay," especially in the black community. When coupled with the racism that is the history of this nation, that affects every aspect of life, the end result is a field of sexual identities for black lesbians and

gay men that is identical to neither the white lesbian and gay community in America, nor the framework of sexual orientation as has been studied on the African continent. These "non-gay identified men who have sex with men" face incredible pressure to

conform to a label as false as saying that any black child in Mississippi could grow up to be the President of the United States.

The result occurs when white ostensibly liberals act as though blacks *do* already have all the rights and privileges of being American. (A popular joke of a half century ago had a black man say to a white man, "I hear that the Japanese have declared war on y'all white folks.")

This community, categorized by what some labelers call their "denial," as a result suffers unknowingly from their diminished assumption for being at risk for HIV infection. Only when a figure such as Magic can say, "Yes, even I," can we find the appropriate role model they can identify with, and take to heart, which leads to the final point, of claiming or disclaiming hero status for Magic.

To many white gay activists, Magic is no hero. To the loved ones of people with AIDS, there have been over 150,000 heroes, multiplied by all the doctors and other health care workers, volunteers and friends, who all did unsung valiant acts of heroism by suiting up throughout the epidemic.

To some who have lost count of the friends and members of their families who have succumbed to AIDS, there is

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outright anger at the length of time it took America to take their disease seriously not to mention that the press conference of a basketball player is what made it happen. There is bewilderment as to how mainstream America could remain so ignorant until now, with 150,000 already dead and ten times that number living with the disease inside them.

The appearance of one more HIV positive person, albeit a famous one, is something they scarcely even have time to notice in between hospital visits, waiting at the pharmacy for prescriptions, fighting with social service agencies and insurance companies, and merely dealing with their own grief and loss.

Good, that it's someone of a stature such as Magic Johnson, some say. We got our hands full now, and there are more people getting sick every day. New volunteers are needed. More voices have to yell at the powers that be to shake a little compassion out of them. More folks should be committed, shaken out of their complacency, fired into action, than what the lesbian and gay, and HIV-impacted communities can reach realistically.

Magic Johnson, before Nov. 7, was not the unofficial saint of Ward 6800 of Los Angeles or Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City or the Township AIDS Project in Soweto. He can become, yet, their hero, too, in addition to being the hero of sports lovers. He's somebody's hero, that's what counts. Even within the fudgy selective memory of his sexual history, Magic is serving a particular community that shares with him that trait. If he never does anything by the lesbian and gay community, he has saved us the task for having to educate our heterosexual black families, or reinforced that which we've been trying so hard for so long to get them to believe. He has already saved several hundred thousand young people from being added to the roles of the sick, the dying and the dead. Maybe even, he's inspired some of them to enlist in the fight.

It would be nice, too, many in the community say, to have a Magic Johnson say, above and beyond all the good that he's

done, that he was a gay man as well. Certainly many not famous black gay men have faced the same reality Magic Johnson now does. The black gay community, HIV-affected and not, could certainly use a role model of Magic's caliber.

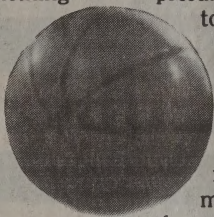
There's a lot, after all, that goes with being a hero, and asking—or telling—someone of, say, Magic Johnson's stature to come out and say, "I'm gay," may be presuming that they really have it in them to be *that* much of a hero.

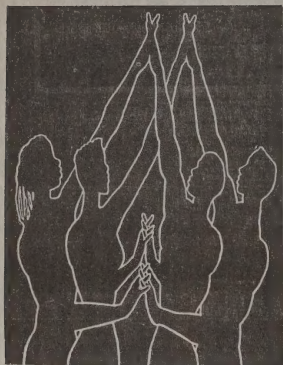
Magic Johnson's magic will fade with time, as did the magic of Frankie Robinson, Joe Louis, Roy Campanella, or any of the great sports figures whose reasons for fame stretched far and wide across a more ominous landscape of America

than what we face today. That we could almost forget what it has taken for us to survive as a race in this hostile environment not yet fully civilized means that there will be many more Magics. There are more Sylvesters, more Patrick Kellys, more Willi Smiths yet to come also; if we don't get our Magics, well, we'll have them to be sure. Hopefully Magic will get the message, that if he can't be one of us, then he at least can be with us in solidarity.

The phones began ringing off the hook on the Friday now known as the Day the Magic Stopped at agencies that had no funds to speak of to fight the epidemic for the last ten years suddenly found out that everybody seemed to know their name. However, the battle with a recalcitrant, racist, homophobic government to do its share was far from over. There were probably a number of folks on vacation, fishing along some mountain lake, miles from the nearest radio or phone, that didn't hear the news. There might even be a few people who don't like basketball—or at least the Lakers; so the work is far from finished. A new era, however, the era of Magic, has definitely begun.

"I'm going to be a spokesman for the HIV virus helping young people to realize they can practice safe sex. You can be naïve. You think it will never happen to you. It has happened. I'll deal with it and my life will go on."





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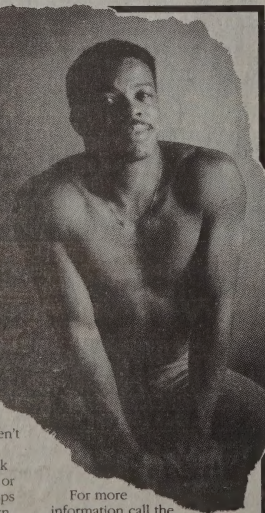
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SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE **CLARENCE THOMAS** **ON GAY RIGHTS**

BY CORNELL MAKONNEN

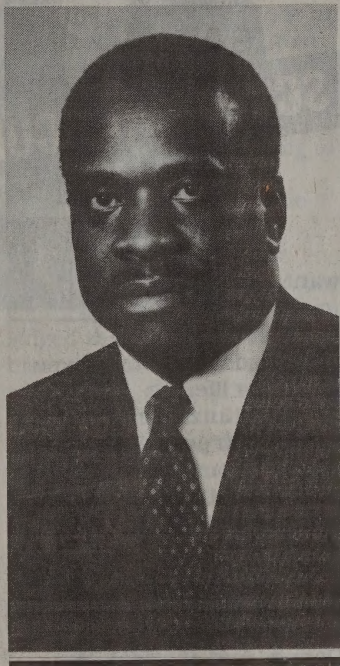
Since Clarence Thomas was confirmed as the replacement on the U.S. Supreme Court of retired Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, unanswered questions about Thomas's views on gay issues seem all but forgotten. Although Thomas's hostility to remedies for racial, gender and age discrimination have been fully exposed, the black Republican's stance on homosexuality has barely been the subject of speculation.

Many black gays were dismayed because the division among African Americans regarding support for Thomas rigidified once Anita Hill's charges shifted the focus of the confirmation debate. In what some contended was a knee-jerk response, many blacks rose to Thomas's defense on the grounds that his conservative views were irrelevant once he was subjected to personal attack for sexual aggression, a charge historically directed at black men for racist reasons.

From this Afrocentric perspective Hill was either a traitor or a pawn employed by white character assassins. Support for Thomas became a matter of ethnic solidarity. Black lesbians and gays who argued that Hill's accusations re-enforced their fears that Thomas was certainly sexist and probably homophobic could be construed as vesting loyalty in their gender or sexual orientation rather than in their race.

Evidence of Thomas's homophobia was rather scanty. Even the mainstream gay press could do little better than run stories critical of Thomas based on a generalization of his unsympathetic attitude toward other discriminated against groups. Nonetheless there were some indications of Thomas's likely attitude which were largely, but not entirely discouraging.

Thomas had been on the appellate bench for less than a year and a half when he was nominated to the high court. Therefore he had written few decisions from which his judicial philoso-



phy could be gleaned. Virtually the only comment he made touching on issues likely to be raised in lesbian and gay rights litigation came in an ominous footnote he appended to a 1989 Harvard law journal article. With reference to the famous *Griswold vs. Connecticut* ruling, Thomas expressed "misgivings ... [about the] activist judicial use of the Ninth Amendment" wherein the Warren Court found an unprecedented right to privacy. Legal experts have long believed that the best constitutional case for lesbian and gay rights is embedded in the Ninth Amendment.

During his tenures as chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of

Education, Thomas did not have the authority to pursue cases of anti-gay discrimination because such conduct is not a violation of U.S. law.

But his record on prosecution of complaints from women and racial minorities was notoriously poor: He rejected more than 50 percent of EEOC complaints compared to the Carter Administration which actively sought remedies or damages in more than 70 percent of complaints filed.

The one case in which Thomas may have shown some regard for the rights and dignity of lesbians and gays is under-documented. Thomas fired Angela Wright, a former employee of his who, like Anita Hill, alleged that he had sexually harassed her. Thomas claims he terminated Wright because she had, "referred to another male member of my staff as a faggot."

Wright's allegations were never taken as seriously as Hill's, apparently because she has a less impeccable professional and personal reputation. She submitted written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee but was not invited to testify in person. Therefore, she was never publicly questioned about the circumstances of her termination.

To be sure, it is but a matter of time before it is known what the views of Clarence Thomas are on lesbian and gay rights and the U.S. Constitution. Some black lesbians and gay men are hopeful, just as are many other blacks that Thomas will, belatedly, remember who he is and what the needs of his people are. There is, after all, a brand of libertarian conservatism which maintains that government may not discriminate among citizens. But there is also a nightmare vision to be feared; that Clarence Thomas will be used by an increasingly intolerant America to articulate the Supreme Court's repeal of affirmative action on the one hand and the repudiation of lesbian and gay rights on the other.

By Rex Wockner
and Mark Haile



SUMMER SUES, SCOFFS AT SCURRILOUS SLAMS

Disco diva Donna Summer is suing *New York* magazine for libel for reporting that eight years ago she told concert-goers that gays are sinners and AIDS is a divine ruling. Announcing her \$30-million lawsuit Oct. 1 in Beverly Hills, Summer asserted: "I did not say it. I do not believe it."

BLK reported the *New York* allegations in its August issue.

In September of 1989, this reporter conducted a week-long investigation to determine whether Summer made anti-gay remarks during her 1983 concert tour, and found four concert-goers—who did not know each other and who were at two different concerts—who said that they personally heard Summer make the statements.

"I was at one of her last concerts at the Holiday Star Theater in Merrillville, Ind., in the fall of '83," said Chicago artist Michael Kutza. "She was terrific and at the end of the show said, 'If any of you

want to talk to me

afterward, I want to tell you about my life.'

"So," Kutza continued, "about 500 people stayed and she came out in her little tux and without her wigs...and started talking about finding Jesus.

"Now," Kutza said, "one little gay guy in front was screaming, 'I love you, Donna,' and she said, 'Are you gay?' and he said, 'Yes,' and she said: 'I can help you change your ways. AIDS is your punishment and you must change your ways.' She said this on stage to 500 people at the Holiday Star Theatre."

That's exactly what happened, agrees Chicago architect Dan Earles, who was at the same concert. "She came out and gave a little speech that was totally inappropriate—about how she'd been saved by God and how homosexuality is a sin," said Earles. "She was real derogatory. I walked

out before she was done talk-

ing and haven't listened to her music since."

Village Voice contributor Jim Feldman says he heard Summer make anti-gay comments too, at a summer 1983 concert in Atlantic City, N.J. "I was assigned by the *Village Voice*...to review the 'She Works Hard for the Money' album and to cover a concert in Atlantic City," Feldman remembered. "At one point she was making some comments about boy-girl couples or something and some gay man raised his hand and she said: 'Oh, not you. After all, God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.'

"Then," Feldman said, "a hush sort of fell over the concert for a moment and then she said, 'Oh, but I love you anyway'."

Long Island gay journalist Tom Dana, also present, recalls, "Yes, I remember the 'Adam and Eve not Adam and

Steve' thing," Feldman said. "She said it right there on stage during the concert."

Several times since 1983, Summer has tried to rekindle her popularity among the gay audiences credited for making her a superstar in the United States in the first place.

Brought up in a strict New England home where her father was a minister, Summer ran off to chase stardom on Broadway and in Europe. In the early era of disco, she earned the distinction of selling three million records without receiving any airplay on American radio stations—at the time thought essential to record sales. That feat alone brought Summer—and disco—to the attention of the mainstream music industry with heightened interest.

During the nearly eight years that Summer was a major figure in the recording industry prior to the incidents, her concerts and record sales were consistently top draws. She also gained a reputation for capricious behavior that included stopping a plane already taxiing on the runway because, she said, her horoscope told her to, before returning to the fundamentalist Christianity of her childhood.

As articles and word-of-mouth traveled worldwide about the 1983 concert tour, lesbians and gay men reacted with shock and disbelief. When the remarks were not denied, and even more anti-gay comments reported, Donna Summer records were pulled from gay discos and record stores from coast to coast. In some clubs that

continued to play her music, patrons simply walked off the dance floor, or even went as far as to trash the juke box or DJ booth.

Eight years passed without Summer challenging the anti-gay remarks attributed to her, and she went from the Queen of Disco to an unprecedented persona non grata status in the lesbian and gay community. In response to why she waited so many years before reacting to the remarks, Summer's spokespeople said that she thought they were petty, vindictive comments that didn't deserve a response. She claimed that to have acknowledged the remarks would have only given them added validity that they didn't warrant.

Why sue now? Why *New York* magazine?

Summer said Oct. 1, "I would never say the things attributed to me in that [*New York* magazine] article...I must act to vindicate my name and to try to lessen the harmful effects that this article has had on me and others...My faith teaches me to love to the exclusion of no one. I am not here to make judgments on any group of people or persons."

Summer's lawsuit said the article has caused her "shame, mortification and emotional distress" and led some radio stations and dance clubs to boycott her new album. In line with the legal requirements for libel of a public figure in the U.S., the lawsuit charged that the article was "false and defamatory" and was published

with "reckless disregard for the truth."

Summer and her children have received death threats since the article's publication, Summer's attorney said, and as a result she is too upset to work on taping a video for the new album.

New York magazine repeated the anti-gay charges against Summer in the context of an article alleging that Summer had decided against including a pro-gay song on her new *Mistaken Identity* album.

The magazine said the song—"We're Gonna Win" by openly gay singer and songwriter Paul Jabara—which Summer recorded in 1984 but never released, had been conceived as an apology to the gay community. Jabara wrote a number of songs for his friend Summer in the '70s.

But Summer said Oct. 1 that the song was recorded "at the beginning of the AIDS benefits [as an] act of good will to show I was willing to help" and is not on the new album solely because it is "seven years old."

She said it had not even been considered for the new album.

Gay activists expressed mixed emotions about Summer's lawsuit—saying it will be unfortunate for everyone if it turns out that she is lying but that it is a step forward for the gay movement that a pop-culture figure considers it libelous for a magazine to report that she is anti-gay.

New York magazine had no comment on the lawsuit except to say that it has yet to be served with a summons.

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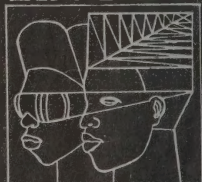
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Black gay men are coming home

After the death of *In the Life* editor Joseph Beam, activist and poet Essex Hemphill carried on in his footsteps with this new anthology of fiction, essays, and poetry by black gay men. Contributors include Assoto Saint, Craig G. Harris, Melvin Dixon, Marlon Riggs, and many newer writers.

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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE MELODY MAKERS "Jahmekya" (Virgin)

Confronting any legacy presents a challenge, but when the legacy is that of reggae pioneer and legend Bob Marley, the challenge becomes awesome. Siblings David ("Ziggy"), Stephen, Cedella and Sharon Marley have risen to this challenge, reshaping and redefining the reggae sound with elements of rap, hip-hop, R&B and gospel. As Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, they are bringing reggae to an increasing, ever-changing group of listeners. "We're still growing and we still feel like a new group. We don't feel like we've reached as many people as we could," explains Ziggy. "But it does make me feel good that we can reach across to people and make way for other reggae artists to come through."

On their new release *Jahmekya*, the group continues to come of age and mature as musicians. The themes dealt with on the band's breakthrough album, *Conscious Party*, and the subsequent *One Bright Day*, are extended in a new direction. Spirituality, celebration, conscience and reverence permeate the energy of *Jahmekya*.

The band self-produced the album, with the help of Glenn Rosenstein, gravitating away from Talking Heads members (and Tom Tom Club founders) Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth, who produced their two previous releases. The new album also showcases

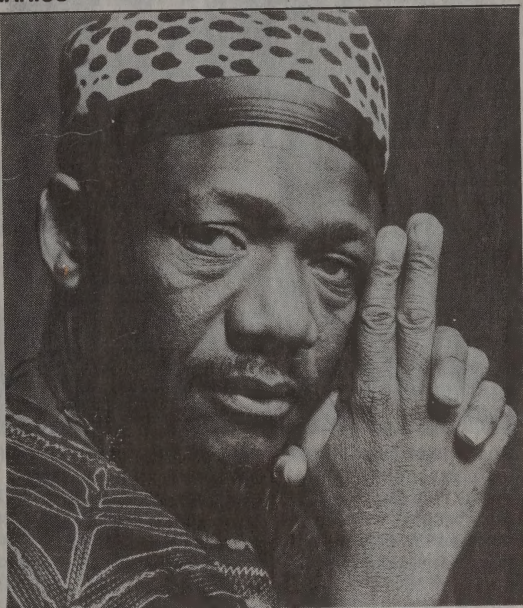
an all-Jamaican backing band. "With the music we're doing, originality is the thing we have to stress," Ziggy continues, "to make sure it's us and not a copy of my father or anybody else."

The album's first single, "Kozmik" (written by Ziggy and Cedella), possesses the pulsating energy the band has become known for. Among many other stand-out tunes, be sure to check out the hip-hop rhythms of "Good Time," and the introspective tribute, "Nami-bia."

SONNY OKOSUNS "African Soldiers" (Profile)

As the creative arts take on a more Afrocentric view, international music is coming into its own. African musician Sonny Okosuns cuts across cultural boundaries on *African Soldiers*, his first American recording for Profile Records, traditionally a rap label here in the States.

Okosuns grew up in Africa listening to Otis Redding, James Brown and the Beatles, and was influenced to the point of teaching himself to play the guitar, drums and piano. He later performed with reggae stars Peter Tosh and Eddy Grant, helping him to reach worldwide status as a performer. His politics and spirituality come through strong in his lyrics. Although banned in South Africa for his strong anti-apartheid views, he remains most popular in the Motherland, where he has released over 16 albums.



Sonny Okosuns

African Soldiers cultivates several different rhythms, including reggae and American funk, in addition to African beat. The Jamaican-flavored "King of Kings" is a standout, as is the down tempo cry for unity, "Babylon."

KMD "Mr. Hood" (Electra)

An imaginative trio from Long Island (dubbed "Strong Island" by the rap community), KMD jumps feet first into the rap scene. Their incredible debut album, *Mr. Hood*, pokes fun at cultural stereotypes and slams hard with Islamic knowledge. Mr. Hood is actually a character—a computer-generated voice sampled from a language

record—who turns up in unexpected places throughout the album.

All under the age of twenty, this threesome—Zevlove X, DJ Subroc and Onyx ("the Birthstone Kid")—came up with a different name for their group, filled with meaning. KMD is the moniker for a "Positive Kaul in a Much Damaged Society." "We grew up in an era when negative rap was popular," says Onyx. "The K for cause gives it more kick."

Brothers Zevlove and Subroc hooked up with Onyx in 1987, shortly after all three converted to the Five Pillars of Faith of Islam. Zevlove's nasal voice and distinctive style of rapping defines a surprising voice of wisdom for one so young (check out the serious science dropped on



Damian Dame

"Banana Peel Blues"). "The main message of KMD is to uplift the conscience of the Nubian people," Onyx continues. And not only the Muslim slaves stolen from Africa in the 1600s, but all oppressed people including "Latinos, Japanese, Sicilians, Indians and American blacks."

With musical influences like Gil-Scott Heron, Stetsasonic and Boogie Down Productions ("on the production tip"), KMD is an intelligent continuation of our musical history. Welcome to the 'Hood!

DAMIAN DAME "Damian Dame" (LaFace)

A varied musical mix, including funk, hip-hop and a strong dose of pop appeal, defines this debut from duo Damian Dame. It also signals the long-anticipated first release from LaFace Records, the new record label from superstar producers Babyface and L.A. Reid.

Keyboardist and singer Damian taught himself to play piano at an early age.

He was playing in clubs as a teenager in his native Michigan, and later moved to Los Angeles to follow his musical dreams. Singer/songwriter Deah, who grew up in San Jose, Calif., cut her teeth on musical influences such as Chaka Khan and Deniece Williams.

Many of the performers that L.A. and Babyface have produced have a sound quite easy to recognize, and Damian Dame is no exception. This album, however, does a great job at highlighting Damian Dame's talent. Two outstanding ballads, "Right Down To It" and "Virgin Island," show Damian and Deah's strength as singers, respectively. The duo stays with the program on the up-tempo side as well, with the standout dance tracks "Gotta Learn My Rhythm," "Whack It On Me" and the jammin' "Believer."

Overall, this is a solid debut project, if you can get past the predictable, synthesizer-laden formula on some cuts. Damian Dame's wide appeal and eminent talent will certainly work to their advantage. And a push

from LaFace certainly won't hurt!

JODECI "Forever My Lady" (MCA)

The world of hip-hop is changing faster than albums can be released. The debut album from Jodeci comes at you with a different approach. The foursome is made up of two sets of brothers—JoJo and K-Ci from North Carolina, and Virginia-born Davin and DeVante Swing—all under the age of 22.

The musical approach is what grabs you. Essentially a dance-oriented R&B set, the first half of *Forever My Lady* is devoted to an excellent group of ballads. Albums of this nature usually try to slam hard on the hip-hop tip, throwing in a few ballads for good measure. Concentrating on the slow jams up front gives the band instant credibility as singers, which they deserve.

Although a young group, the fellas have already worked with Al B. Sure!

the ballads on this one, and *Forever My Lady* is definitely worth a listen.

CANDY DULFER "Sexuality" (Arista)

If you like jazz with a decidedly funky feel, this may be the CD for you. I haven't seen many female saxophonists; this release makes me want to seek more of them out. Dulfer is an excellent musician who plays with confidence and flair on her American debut.

The daughter of a jazz musician, Dulfer began playing at the age of 12 in her native Amsterdam. "I started out listening to jazz," she says. "Charlie Parker, Ben Webster... Sonny Rollins is one of my favorites." She was later turned on to Chic, Maceo Parker and Sly Stone, which influenced her funkier side. On *Sexuality*, Dulfer offers up a diverse selection of tracks that are impressive.

You probably have heard the cut "Lily Was Here,"

Although banned in South Africa for his strong anti-apartheid views, Sonny Okosuns remains most popular in the Motherland, where he has released over 16 albums.

(who co-produced five of the album's tunes), Father MC and Tevin Campbell. A background as gospel vocalists adds to the emotional feeling the ballads possess. The album's best slow cut, "U&I," and the fantastic minute-and-a-half "Interlude" showcases the band's harmonizing at its best.

Unfortunately, the album's second half is all about formula-driven hip-hop. Programmed drum machines are in large scale effect, and these guys end up sounding a lot like Guy (I don't know if this is intentional or not.) Stick to

From the soundtrack of the Dutch film of the same name, which pairs Dulfer with Dave Stewart of Eurythmics. The passion and sensuality of "Donja" and "House Is Not A Home" shouldn't be missed. Nor should sophisticated jazz gems "Mr. Lee" and "Pee Wee."

Candy Dulfer is a name you'll want to remember. After playing with such eclectic musicians as Prince and Pink Floyd (among others), this debut album should garner a strong base of stateside fans. Take a listen; it will be easy to agree.

MOVIES

BY ALAN BELL

HANGIN' WITH THE HOMEBOYS (New Line)

A comedy about four friends who team up for a Friday night on the town, *Hangin' with the Homeboys* is alternately funny, poignant and profound. Notably, a gay-focused scene that could have made gay men the butt of a joke—or the object of violence—is passed over with a few curious (but not at all derogatory) glances.

Homeboys was directed by Joseph B. Vasquez, a 29-year-old of black and Puerto Rican descent. He knows dramatic structure, how to move the camera and how to squeeze truths in the cracks between jokes.

Doug E. Doug, Mario Joyner, John Leguizamo and Nestor Serrano create four very real, very memorable characters in one of the best of the current crop of black-themed movies.

YOUNG SOUL REBELS (Prestige)

When a young black gay man is killed in a park well-known in London for cruising, forces are set in motion that drive a wedge between two good friends and galvanize the community at large. Along the way, director and co-writer Isaac Julien drops a few insights on relations between black and white, police misbehavior and the social construction of masculinity.

Young Soul Rebels is easy, sentimental and has its share of oh hum acting. But it's exciting to watch because it tackles our

themes and our situations—themes and situations that rarely make it to the big screen. The story, which is set in 1977 at the height of disco, features music by War, Funkadelics, Parliament, the O'Jays and the Players Association. Isaac Julien directed *Looking for Langston* in 1989.

LIVIN' LARGE (Samuel Goldwyn)

Living Large! is the larger than broad comedy about a young black broadcasting student who gets a chance at big time and sells his soul to the man in exchange for material success.

Though unintended, the movie justifies poor performance by African-Americans and equates professionalism with whiteness. Still T. C. Carson gives lots of energy to his starring role and the music by the Jungle Brothers jams.

Living Large! was directed by Michael Schultz, the brother who helmed the seminal *Car Wash*, then ran out of gas.

RICOCHET (Warner Bros.)

In most instances I prefer the experience of viewing a film in a theater rather than in my living room. But *Ricochet* is one movie I can't wait to be released to home video so that I can slo-mo the locker room scene when a nude Denzel Washington momentarily exposes his goodies to view.

But even without that as a draw, *Ricochet*—about a convict who tries to destroy



Valentine Nonyela and Mo Sesay in *Young Soul Rebels*.

the career of the person who put him behind bars—is an fun way to spend an evening. Washington eases through *Ricochet* in a tailor-made role, Ice T is good (though I'd like to see him cast against type sometime), and John Lithgow is the perfect villain.

Only at the end, does the film fall apart with too many implausibilities and an overabundance of expensive cheap thrills. But cheap thrills—expensive or otherwise—is what pleases audiences these days. Expect a *Ricochet II*.

PARIS IS BURNING (Prestige)

The good news is that someone has made a film about a subgroup of a subgroup of a subgroup. The bad news is that it wasn't placed in a clear enough context.

Paris is Burning tells the story of today's black gay drag balls, a venerable institution first popular in Harlem decades ago. It's about the resilience of a

people, who fashion a culture on the leftovers of the straight white society that dismisses them. We see the joy and directedness of people who have created a reason to be, a vehicle for self-esteem.

But we also watch our lesbian and gay black brothers and sisters, both in word and deed, ape the look and mannerisms of straight white people. One character says he wants to "look like a real man—a straight man." Another says, "I'd like to be a spoiled rich white girl."

Paris tells a black gay story (good), and—in short clips—a white straight story (bad). But the audience gets no notion of the straight black story, the larger gay black story or the larger gay black drag story. *Paris* ends with a 15-year-old saying, "So this is New York City and this is what the gay life is about." Nope. This is part of what gay life is about, a point not made clearly enough.

Directed by Jennie Livingston.

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BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER



Becky Birtha

This is a good time to be a writer and a reader, especially if you are looking for mature and varied images of African-American lesbians and gay men. That's not the only reason I review the books that pass through my hands, but it is a significant and often limiting factor. Those other books—books that marginalize our experiences in the black or gay communities—will be reviewed other places. How

many spaces exist to specifically evaluate our words, our images, our attempts to describe and shape our many communities? And yet... And yet if I have learned anything at all over these last few years of conferences and readings, it is that coast to coast, we, black lesbians and gays, are more similar than different.

Becky Birtha's new collection of stories, *Lover's Choice*, (Seal Press, paper, \$8.95) makes this clear.

These stories are primarily set on the two coasts, but are reflective of the experience in the heartland, too. Her main characters, all women, are familiar. The bus driver with children at home, the teen riding and playing with boys who surreptitiously spies two women publicly embracing. Not to mention characters we know yet find difficult to see, like the lesbian who still mourns her lifetime companion 13 years deceased. After reading "In the Life," this final story of the book readers will feel that Pearl, or Jinx, as her friends call her, seems to celebrate and cherish more than mourn her saving "Grace," the woman with whom she shared much of her life. Thirteen years after her death, Grace haunts her.

What is remarkable about this book of stories is how it acknowledges important elements of our culture (like the church) and reveals our sometimes tortured experience within them. This it does without a great deal of condemnation while acknowledging that her characters nonetheless are largely not at home there. Birtha strikes a remarkable balance in dealing with religion, which surfaces again in "The Saints and Sinners Run," a tale about a bus driver whose Sunday route takes her past many of the churches in her town. Like Jinx, who hasn't stepped inside a church in 35 years, Cecily has a story like this to recount because it occurs so often that it has become a ritual.

"Once in a while," Cecily

says, "an old lady will ask me 'Don't you go to church?' She'll be looking up and down my slacks and my man-tailored blue shirt. But that's my uniform. She can see it's pressed and fresh on Sunday, just like every other day, and may have a no-nonsense hairdo, but it's neat and trim. 'Yes ma'am,' I'd say, 'when I don't have to work.' It's not exactly a lie. The times I go to church do be times when I don't have to work. Maybe not every time I don't have to work, but she didn't ask that." This story and the other stories which are written in the first person are my favorites because they seem to speak directly to me. Nonetheless, I know that they surely speak in a deeper way to women than they probably do to me. Even for me, however, these stories are a way of "trying on" on a voice that is not altogether unfamiliar. But we black gays and lesbians have never enjoyed the luxury of being separate. Even our separateness, these stories seem to say, is illusory. Men are largely absent here, but there is no hostility. Johnnieruth, the young protagonist of the opening story in the book is more perplexed and amused by the boys she goes biking with than anything else. And when one offers to be her special companion, she thinks, and one can almost see her snorting, "I ain't met nobody yet that I'd really rather be with than be by myself. But I will someday. When I find that special place where everybody different, I'm gonna find somebody there I can

be friends with. And it ain't gonna be no dumb boy."

Melvin Dixon's *Vanishing Rooms* (Dutton, hardcover, \$18.95) has received a good deal of attention in the mainstream press, mostly favorable. This is a good sign, and somewhat surprising. But that kind of attention always makes me suspicious; it makes me consider for whom the book is intended. This one is about a mixed-race couple—Jesse, a black dancer, and his white lover, Metro, both recent college graduates. It is also about Lonny, the repressed white homosexual who kills Metro in Manhattan's West Village and about the friendship that blooms between Jesse and Ruella, a black dancer he had met just before Metro's brutal murder. In some ways, this is a novel about the ways and reasons that we face others not as people but as objects. It suggests that we are not always people meeting people, but one set of needs meeting another. Race, gender and history compli-

cate this even further. The novel's structure and themes are Faulknerian; the series of alternating monologues provide a counterpoint on the novel's primary events—Metro's murder, Jesse and Ruella's blossoming friendship, and Lonny's struggle to come to terms with himself.

Dixon writes with passion and a great deal of craft. *Rooms* is a challenging read, dense with imagery, often abrupt and alternately dazzling and puzzling. That's not surprising since Dixon is also a poet. The novel focuses more on interiors than exteriors, more on essences than facts. Take the monologue in which Lonny returns to the scene of the crime before admitting his guilt to the police:

"They had the body marked out in chalk on the ground behind some blue sawhorses that said 'Police Line—Do Not Cross.' It was right where we left him. I saw it glowing. 'Here's Metro,' I told myself. Here's anybody, even me. A chalk line and nothing inside. A fat white line of head, arms

body and legs. A body curled into a heap to dead itself. Like a leaf or a dead bird, something dropped out of the sky from a guy's stretched out hand. It was amazing. But it was also the figure of somebody. A man. Any man. So I walked around the outline, seeing it from different angles. How funny to see something that fixed, protected from people or from falling leaves or from the shiny drippings from sides of beef. The outline wasn't Metro. It was somebody like me." This passage is beautiful, lyrical, revealing—one of many gems the novel offers. But I suspect that not all readers will work as hard as I did to decipher the novel's many encoded messages. If they do, they will discover that Dixon has much of interest to say about the spaces where homophobia and racism intersect.

Now that I have some distance from the novel, I find myself asking some questions that I would normally think of as unfair, some "what if" questions. Such as. What if all the characters were black? Would the media be interested in the book as much then? I ask these questions not because the novel is undeserving of the attention it has received, but because I am certain that some critics have not understood all that it is saying about interracial relationships or about this one in particular. Dixon has very good reasons for his choices. Let's just say that I think it's very hard on blacks and whites, gays and straights, women and men. I believe it is challenging us to examine those liberated zones that we have heretofore considered simultaneously safe and dangerous—not only public sex playgrounds, but also interracial relationships. Read this novel for yourself, and be

ready to work hard.

Finally, I would like to recommend *High Risk*, an anthology by Amy Scholder and Ira Silverberg (Plume, paper, \$8.95) which begins with this premise and this definition: "HIGH RISK—all those activities, subjects, imaginings that challenge the limits imposed not only by society but oneself. If sadomasochism is about anything, it's about transgression—of the limits we thought we had. If we've taken drugs for a reason, it's to go beyond consciousness—one we thought was fixed. If asserting an ethnic identity is an essential means of survival, it's because culture in American society is based on the fallacy of white supremacy."

Wow! It's here, all those things you sneak a peek at in the bookstores when you think no one's looking. I, for one, am a closet Pat Califia reader. What's she doing among the piss drinkers, the brazen hustlers, the role-players, the risk-takers, the chosen ones, the self-endangered? John Preston's aptly chosen introductory essay starts this party. Naturally, it's called "How Dare You Even Think These Things!" *Risk* also includes poems by Wanda Coleman, the L.A.-based performance poet, and a long hot poem by Essex Hemphill called "Heavy Breathing." What surprised me about this anthology was that I felt really connected to pieces which are far from my own experience, i.e., Mary Gaitskill's tale of self-styled "bad girls" "Action, Illinois," Jane Delynn's "Butch," and Lynne Tillman's "Diary of a Masochist."

Yes, it's high risk. But is it (in this era of AIDS) necessarily irresponsible? Immature? Dangerous? You decide for yourself.



Curtis hopes to God he's misinterpreted.

BLK NEWS

Lesbian Wins Seattle Seat

SEATTLE—Sherry Harris overwhelming defeated 24-year incumbent Sam Smith to become the nation's first openly lesbian African-American woman elected to public office. After a fierce runoff battle, Harris outpolled Smith 96,055 to 48,697.

Smith is openly anti-gay, fought Seattle's domestic-partnership ordinance, and has described himself as a "moral conservative."

The large win startled even Harris, who previously had beaten Smith in a primary vote in Sept. 17, 45 percent to 38 percent. Harris, who is an engineer, attributed her victory to the high turnout of voters from Seattle's gay and lesbian precincts, plus the financial support from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund (GLVF), a new Washington, D.C. group that funds lesbian and gay candidates.

"Seattle has made a very strong statement about how we live our lives," Harris said amid hundred of volunteers who worked in her campaigns. "They wanted a new direction, and our victory illuminates a vision that includes everyone, gays and lesbians, the elderly, people of color, the homeless, people concerned about our environment and land use. This is a win for Seattle future," she said.

At present, there is apparently only one openly gay, black elected official in the U.S.—Albany, N.Y., City Councilor Keith St. John.

David Mixner, GLVF board chairman said, "Sherry Harris exposed Seattle to a side of our community that is rarely addressed. Obviously [Seattle] responded very favorably to her message. We have always promoted the fact that gay men and women make excellent candidates on a wide range of issues."

BWMT/LA Gets Aid for AIDS \$

LOS ANGELES—An agreement has been reached between Aid for AIDS and BWMT/LA to provide past and present members of BWMT/LA up to an additional \$400 in funding above the agency's maximum of \$2000.

Aid for AIDS provides confidential financial assistance to people with AIDS or ARC who are awaiting their govern-

ment or insurance benefits and thus are in need of immediate emergency funds.

'Ball' Win Spawns 1992 Redux

LOS ANGELES—The first Catch One ball, "Catch One is Buring, is guaranteed not to be the last. The Oct. 2 fête was the area's social event of the year in addition to benefiting Rue's House, a residential facility for women and children with HIV.

Voguers, poseurs and glamour queens came out of hiding from all over Southern California for the chance to compete in a variety of categories. Drag included "office drag," the competition for corporate executive realness. Voguers also competed for bangee boy and bangee girl realness, in costumes and attitude authentic down to "tagging" the runway.

From the butch queen contestants to the master of ceremonies, to the packed audience, attitude was the most prized possession, and those who had the most of it won the larger than life trophies to show for it.

Catch One's Winter Ball is scheduled for Feb. 5.

Man Sentenced in Gay Murder

NEW YORK—A man convicted in the murder and robbery of a New York gay community activist who had befriended and tried to help him was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Steven Zabel, 39, was found dead March 4, 1989 with his head nearly severed from his body. Andrew McMillan, 21, of Elizabeth, N.J., was convicted of the murder.

McMillan, along with Jose "Eddie" Laureano, 21, a homeless crack addict, killed Zabel, then robbed his apartment of electronic equipment to sell for cash to buy drugs. McMillan, who resided with Zabel sporadically for almost seven years, conceded to State Supreme Court Justice Richard Lowe that he was at the murder scene, although he claimed he was innocent of the charges.

Zabel's body was found after coworkers at ACT-UP told authorities they had been unable to reach him.

Activists Fête Afro Day

NEW YORK—Strutting to the gospel beat of "Nothing's Gonna Turn Me 'Round," about two dozen lesbian and gay activists took their place among thousands of other marchers, including this year's Grand Marshals, Mayor Dinkins, Spike Lee and actor Denzel Washington, in the 23rd Annual Afro-American Day Parade. The parade wound its way through the streets of Harlem despite cloudy skies Sept. 15.

Braving taunts, but also basking in not a few finger snapping cheers, the groups carried banners from Gay Men of African Descent, Black Men Loving Black Men and African Ancestral Wimmmin United for Social Change (formerly Salsa Soul Sisters).

—Ra'an Medley



Sherry Harris

Black Lesbian: Cop Must Go!

SAN FRANCISCO—Police Commission vice-president Gwen Craig, a member of the Black Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club and a former deputy sheriff, spoke out against the leniency of a sentence handed down in a widely publicized anti-gay police brutality case.

Capt. Richard Cairns, a 22-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department, had been suspended for 45 days without pay for hitting two people with his baton during the Oct. 6, 1989 Castro Street ACT-UP demonstration. Charges regarding excessive force against a third person were dropped, despite graphic photographs and eyewitness accounts. Cairns had admitted striking the protestors but had claimed that he acted within police guidelines on use of force.

Craig said that Capt. Cairns should have been fired for the misconduct, and that Cairns had "shown himself unfit for command...unfit to wear the uniform of this city." Her extensive prepared statement concluded that the police deliberately provoked the Oct. 6 demonstrators into actions for which they could be arrested, and infringed on protestors' rights to peaceably assemble. Craig defended herself from critics among various factions in the case who said she acted either too severely or not severely enough.

Craig, one of the most visible black lesbians in San Francisco politics, has largely been left to fend for herself on the Police Commission without the backing of the community.

Man Convicted in Gay Murder

MILWAUKEE—Charles E. Jackson was found guilty of first degree homicide for last October's murder of Cleveland Roundtree. His alleged accomplice, Patrick Harden, is being tried separately.

Roundtree was shot twice at close range, then set afire. Although Roundtree was apparently murdered for being

gay, the prosecuting district attorney, Karine Mareno-Taxman, declined to use the Wisconsin hate crime law. She admitted to the Lambda Rights Network, which monitored the trial, that she had not even read the law.

Neither the NAACP nor the Urban League took an interest in the case, although it was widely publicized in Milwaukee as a hate crime.

Billy Preston Charged

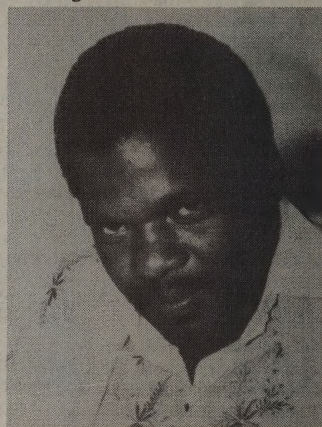
MALIBU, Calif.—Billy Preston, singer and songwriter, was arrested Aug. 18 at his Malibu home on charges of sexual battery, possession of cocaine and showing pornographic material to a minor.

Early Sunday morning Preston had picked up a 16-year-old male day laborer and allegedly began smoking crack cocaine and showing pornography to the youth almost immediately.

Preston reportedly had the youth start cleaning out a barn, then pushed him to the ground and started grabbing his chest. The youth claimed he pushed the 45-year-old singer off of him and fled to a neighbor's home where he called the police.

Sheriff's deputies came, but found no one there. On a second try shortly after, deputies found Preston in the barn with a 19-year-old man apparently picked up at the same gathering spot. Preston was arrested and held until his attorney posted bail that evening.

Arraigned on Sept. 19, Preston insisted the youth "just told a bunch of lies," although he did not deny the cocaine charge.



Billy Preston



Black Groups Get Walk \$

NEW YORK—The AIDS Walk 1991 has resulted in cash grants in excess of a half millions dollars going to community based AIDS organizations. Some 26,000 participants raised over 4.1 million dollars in the sixth annual fundraiser, held May 19. The event is New York City's largest lesbian and gay community fundraiser, and provides a sizeable chunk of the \$15 million annual budget to operate Gay Men's Health Crisis, the oldest and largest AIDS services organization in the world although only one-eighth of the funds raised will be divided among 60 grassroots agencies.

Among this year's recipients will be the Community Research Initiative; Gay Men Of African Descent; God's Love We Deliver, Inc.; the Hetrick-Martin Institute; Hispanic AIDS Forum; Life Force: Women Fighting AIDS; the Minori-

ty Task Force on AIDS; and the Women And AIDS Resource Network. This is the third year that funds have been dispersed to community based organizations.

GMHC executive director Timothy J. Sweeney, in announcing the grants, promised that "GMHC will always do what it can to support and assist other community-based AIDS groups so they can continue to provide the essential support services for people living with HIV/AIDS."

Black Gay Center Opens

BALTIMORE—The first Black Gay and Lesbian Community Center organized by and for African-Americans has opened its doors in Baltimore at 614 W. Lexington St., above Tikki's bar.

The BGCCB has a lengthy agenda for the African-American Lesbian and Gay Community. Provision of services for youth, women and people with HIV-related concerns is at the top of the center's list. Housing for homeless youth, a directory of local black lesbian and gay businesses, a hot line, newspaper, drop-in groups and social events are all in the planning stages, as are HIV-related assistance projects.

The center can be reached at 301-539-0942.

Multiculturalism Meet Held

CHICAGO—The Campaign To End Homophobia (CEH), held its third conference, "Challenging Oppression, Creating Multicultural Communities" in Chicago, July 5-7.

There were three days of panels and workshops designed to define and discuss societal oppression as well as to develop strategies and tools for societal change.

Darnell Bonds, co-chair of the Chicago Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, focused on homophobia in the African-American community and the economic realities facing African-Americans. Both conditions make the coming-out process complex for black lesbians and gay men.

Raechele Pope, whose field is multicultural organizational development, used a photographic metaphor to trace biographical instances of her coming-to-consciousness as a biracial, bisexual female and stressed the importance of viewing identity not as a static image, but as an ever-evolving video.

Pope discussed the need to make room for and create new communities for multiply-identified people so that they are not marginalized, forced to choose a primary identity or answer the question, "which are you more?"

Latino AIDS activist Robert Vasquez Pacheco discussed racial cultural politics. "Questioning everything is the only way we're going to change the system," he maintained, adding that, "we need to locate our politic within our soul, our spirit, in order to make effective cultural change."

"Silenced Voices" with Richard Friend, co-director of Equity Works, addressed heterosexism and homophobia in the public school system.

Friend, who co-coordinates "Equity in an Era of Diversity," a four-day in-service program on racism, classism, heterosexism and ableism, said the program was mandated for faculty and staff due to pressure from the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

"Uprooting Racism and Classism" examined the relationships of power at both the personal and systemic levels.

The conference featured workshops ranging from "How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals," to "HIV/AIDS and the Isms," and "Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality."

—Micki Leventhal

Wilder Speechless on Gay Ban

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder has taken a reticent stand on a state law which prohibits bars from serving alcohol to lesbians and gay men.

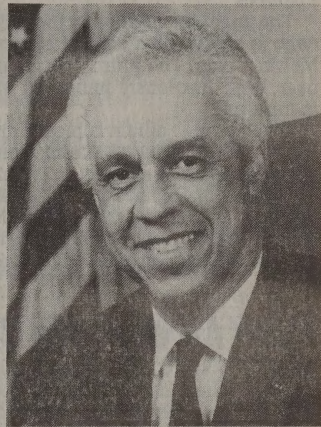
In spite of a large number of Virginia legislators who feel the law is improper, most are unwilling to challenge it because constituents may construe opposition as a "pro gay rights" position. Wilder, who intends on running for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, is said to labor under the same apprehension. Conservative Democrats, whom Wilder is targeting, may be alienated by an unambiguous stand against the law.

Although Wilder, the nation's first black governor, opposes blanket statutes that discriminate, he has declined to comment on the specifics of a lawsuit filed by the owner of a gay café to overturn the 57-year-old statute, which allows suspension or revocation of a liquor license for any place that is a "meeting place or rendezvous" for drunks, gamblers, homosexuals, pimps, prostitutes, drug users, panderers, drink-hustling "B-Girls," and habitual law violators.

It also forbids businesses dispensing alcohol from knowingly hiring anyone with the "general reputation" of being one of the above. Gay activist groups are taken aback by Wilder's stance and feel that because of his own experiences with discrimination, a vocal stand against the law should be a matter of conscience.

Although the state Attorney General's office has advised the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to ignore the law's ban on gay bars, constant pressure initiated by Alexandria resident William Glasgow, Jr., is making it difficult for the board to avoid action.

—Michael Taylor



Governor L. Douglas Wilder

Black Gays Dominate Packet

NEW YORK—The work of four black writers dominates a newly available literature packet prepared by the Lesbian and Gay Adult Educators Committee for teachers' use. As advertised in the June/July edition of New York City's Literacy Assistance Center (LAC) calendar, the packet is designed for teachers "to add to your multicultural curriculum."

Contained in the packet are a *New York* magazine article

by Eric Pooley about a gay-bashing murder in Queens County last summer, and five stories of which all but one are by black authors.

"Most of the students we teach are people of color," Bruce Carmel told BLK, responding to why most of the writers were minorities.

"We got a big response on this," he said. "I heard from LAC that about 200 people asked for the packet," however there is no way to gauge how many teachers actually use the materials.

The three black authors in the collection are Becky Birtha (who is represented by two stories), Steven Corbin and Melvin Dixon. The fourth, Nicholasa Mohr, is Latina. All have been previously published and two are educators themselves.

Teachers may obtain copies of the packet by contacting LAC at 212-267-5309. The Lesbian and Gay Adult Educators Committee can be reached at 212-925-3001.

"We all want to have cultural diversity in our libraries, in our book collections that are available to our students," added Carmel. "What we're trying to do here is have that cultural diversity include lesbians and gay people."

—Eric K. Washington

Ryan Meets with Black Reps

WASHINGTON—Caitlin Ryan, the new director of the District of Columbia's Office of AIDS Activities met with members of the African-American community on July 8. The meeting took place a week prior to her assumption of the new position, which had been vacant for months.

Ryan and representatives of organizations from the District are looking at how to improve the relationship between the OAA and the black gay community, which in the absence of a director since Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon was elected, had been considered dismal at best.

Participants of the meeting agreed it was a positive first

step in what Ryan hopes will be a series of collaborations with the community in planning the OAA's new direction.

Black Gay AIDS Funds Vetoed

SACRAMENTO—Upon the recommendation of Dr. Wilbert Jordan of Martin Luther King Medical Center in Watts, California State Senator Diane Watson sought an allocation of \$500,000 for research on the effects of various AIDS treatments on people of color.

Despite the fact that Watson chairs the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and steered the funding measure through the state legislature, Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the proposal, citing the state budget deficit.

Lorde Home After Vacation

CHRISTIANSTED, St. Croix, V.I.—Audre Lorde has returned home to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands after a short vacation to celebrate a successful chemotherapy session and to accept a \$5,000 cash prize from the Astraea National Lesbian Action Fund.

Upon her return home, Lorde told BLK she felt indebted to the many well-wishers who had communicated with her during the trip.

"For the past eight years, I have been committed to the use of homeopathic immunosuppressive therapy to keep the metastasized breast cancer in my liver under control," Lorde wrote. "When my liver failed in May, I made the decision for chemotherapy. I believe that decision, along with my previous eight years of immunosuppressive treatment saved my life."

Francis Joins One Board

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Sabrina Francis joined the board of One, Inc., the administrators of the Center/Long Beach, as of their July meeting.

Francis, who arrived in Long Beach from Chicago last October, came to the Center in search of activities for African-American lesbians. Upon finding that there are no black organizations in the Long Beach lesbian and gay community, she offered to utilize her activist experience from Chicago to develop cultural programming for people of color.

Francis acknowledged the frustrations faced by others when organizations that need to exist as yet still don't. At the same time she expressed optimism because "the Center is trying to reach out. The challenge is to get the people to know there is someone here to hear you. You just have to keep plugging—you don't give up."

Pridgen Engages ACT-UP

BALTIMORE—Recently-appointed Baltimore City AIDS Coordinator Brenda Pridgen, accompanied by City Council President Mary Pat Clarke, greeted activists from ACT-UP/Baltimore in the middle of their protest action June 11 at City Hall.

Pridgen, who is African-American, was representing Mayor Kurt Schmoke to whom a mock coffin was delivered at City Hall as part of the protest against Schmoke's handling of the AIDS crisis in the city. Baltimore had not budgeted



any city money for AIDS services prior to 1990. In addition, Schmoke had been accused of being absent from major AIDS fundraisers and of not supporting AIDS outreach efforts. Schmoke had promised to open two primary care clinics in January which are still not open, according to Mark Shaw of ACT-UP. Shaw said that two-thirds of last year's Baltimore AIDS budget was spent on testing, counseling and tracing of patient contacts rather than on primary care.

Mayor Schmoke's new AIDS plan includes a \$518,000 budget and a new Early Intervention Initiative which will provide comprehensive HIV evaluation and follow-up care. In addition, a branch of Johns Hopkins Hospital will offer an AIDS Clinical Trial unit. Another new project will develop a 27-unit apartment house for individuals, families and children with HIV disease.

KKK Ups Anti-Gay Activity

LANCASTER, Pa.—Leading up to the Nov. 20 defeat of former Ku Klux Klan leader and ex-neo-Nazi, David Duke, the KKK has re-emerged in several states, riding a crest of anti-gay hate incidents.

In Lancaster, Pa., where a law prohibiting anti-gay discrimination was passed in May, a local gay bookstore, the Closet, was bombed on June 24. The bomb was placed on the steps of the shop late at night resulting in several hundred dollars of damage, but causing no injuries. The shop has already re-opened.

The KKK threatened to march to the front door of the Closet on Aug. 24 in an attempt to close the business down. Owner Nancy Helm said that although the city had approved the permit for the KKK march, it denied the permit for lesbians and gay men to march simultaneously.

Meanwhile, 30 members of the KKK burned crosses in Springfield, Mo., for the first time since 1920. The 29-year-old director of the Missouri KKK, Steve Gullet, said, "By God, if some traitor commie can burn the flag, and queers can kiss in the park, we can have a religious ceremony."

In Fort Worth, Tex., threatening phone calls have been coming into the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the homes of its officers. The anonymous callers have been saying, "a good fag is a dead fag" and "You should be burned like the Jews." So far some 45 phone calls have been received.

Sex Orientation Added

MIAMI—For the past two years, Florida has had a hate crimes law on its books that levies a tougher penalty on a criminal whose crime "is committed out of prejudice against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin or ethnicity."

An amendment which was pushed through at the end of the state legislative session adds a victim's sexual orientation to the list of prejudices.

In 1990, 360 hate crimes were reported, of which 69 percent were acts of violence. The original bill passed in 1989 did not go into effect until 1990.

Police departments have now begun to train investigators to recognize and gather evidence of hate crimes.

One of the concerns among African-Americans in the lesbian and gay community is that such crimes are not report-

ed to the police. The fear of negative repercussions felt in the general lesbian and gay community is compounded by traditional prejudices particular to black lesbian and gay culture.

If the crimes are not reported, offenders cannot be duly prosecuted. Yet such prosecutions will help deter future gay bashing crimes, activists have urged.

—Rice Blaque

5 Inmates Die at State Prison

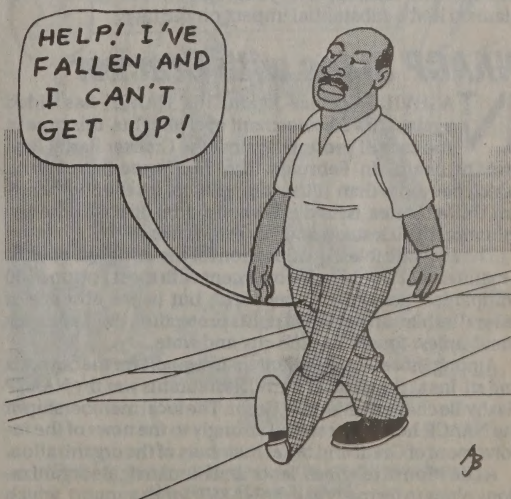
VACAVILLE—Five inmates died on July 5 at the California Medical Facility of the Department of Corrections, a record number. The Vacaville hospital prison is the center for California's controversial HIV treatment among male inmates. While it is not known if any of the inmates who died were infected with HIV, the deaths have brought to light the conditions at the medical facility to the general public.

Dr. Germán Maisonet, an outspoken black and gay advocate for the rights of prisoners with HIV, was still angry over the deaths when he spoke with BLK. Dr. Maisonet, who has been treating prisoners with HIV at the Vacaville facility, told BLK that the level of care was tied into an insufficiently trained staff. Although not in Vacaville at the time of the deaths, he planned to review the investigation to ensure the safety of his patients.

Officials said the sudden onslaught of a heatwave, the anti-psychotic drug Haloperidol which three of the inmates had been prescribed, and the failure of the air conditioning unit at the prison, all contributed to the deaths.

Black Teens on 'Donahue'

SAN FRANCISCO—Lesbian and gay teens took to the airwaves, on prime time in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally on the *Donahue* afternoon talk show. Racism, violence and acceptance by peers and family were among the subjects that the lesbian and gay youth had



the opportunity to speak about.

Dominique DiPrima, host of KRON's Home Turf Summer Mix, said "we chose key issues and there was no way not to include gay and lesbian youth." The lesbian and gay youth in the audience were augmented by a culturally diverse group of speakers, including some from the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a youth counselor and entertainers Marga Gomez and Monica Palacios.

Donahue devoted much of his show on lesbian and gay youth to Jennie Livingston's award-winning film, *Paris Is Burning*. Featured was Dorian Corey of House of Corey, Pepper of the House of LaBascia, Danny from House of Xtravaganza and Willie from House of Ninja.

Donahue spoke with the house mothers and models from New York City vogue balls at great length emphasizing the alternatives to despair and isolation they offered while cultivating the sense of an alternative family. Family members of two of the models were also on the program, as was Dr. Marjorie Hill, of the New York City Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and Ben Dykew, president of the University of Minnesota Gay Community.

Lesbian Tops 8; Later Loses

TAMPA—In a contest that the state director of the conservative American Family Association called a referendum on the city's addition of sexual orientation to its human-rights law, a black lesbian emerged the top vote-getter in a field of eight.

Nadine Smith, a former *Tampa Tribune* reporter, garnered 1,040 votes—or 27 percent of the total—in the Sept. 10 special election to fill a city council seat left vacant by an incumbent indicted on felony charges. But in the Oct. 8 run-off with her closest rival, second-place finisher Les Miller, the 26-year-old activist lost, receiving 42 percent of the vote.

Tampa lesbians and gay men took comfort in the knowledge that, despite Smith's loss, the fundamentalist Rev. James Sykes was knocked off the ballot.

Name recognition was a big factor in the outcome of the run-off, but virtually everyone agrees that Smith's lesbianism had a substantial impact on the race.

NAACP Sides with Cracker

NASHVILLE—Once again, the NAACP has sided against the advancement of civil rights, this time in the case of protests against the Cracker Barrel Restaurant chain. In February, the Tennessee-based firm, which has more than 100 restaurants across the Southeastern United States, issued a memorandum directing the termination of all lesbian and gay employees.

The alleged biblical justification for the firing was cited in a manner that would be inconsistent with most Fortune 500 companies' personnel procedures, but in the absence of federal lesbian and gay civil rights protection, the dismissals stand unless fought in each city and state.

Among those who have lent their support for the boycotts and sit-ins at the Cracker Barrel Restaurants was the NAACP Nashville chapter's Michael Grant. The local membership of the NAACP, however, reacted strongly to the news of the involvement of Grant and other members of the organization.

A coalition of religious, labor and human rights organizations plans to formally ask the NAACP for its support, which

Grant, in the face of the homophobic reaction of local members, doubted would pass. Ironically, the tactics applied by protesters—adopted from black civil rights groups of the '50s and '60s—are having a marked impact on the Cracker Barrel chain's business, and have forced the corporation into negotiations. William Bridges, vice president of human resources and the alleged source of the anti-gay employment policy, has left the firm.

Training for the demonstrations and protests came from the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, to assure that all activities would be legal and non-violent. Observers from the MLK Center have participated in a number of the protests.

Protesters have been arrested, threatened, taunted and searched. Jody Waller, a Cracker Barrel manager, hollered at one group of protesters in Douglasville, Ga., "you and your kind are not welcome here. We don't want your kind."

Indigo Boycott Called Off

BOSTON—The issues surrounding the boycott against Indigo, a Boston nightclub, have been settled, with the bar agreeing to undergo racism-awareness workshops for its staff and to develop advertising which reflects racial diversity.

The settlement was arranged with activists from the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men and the Association for Right On Sisters.

No Refunds from Sheriffs

WEST HOLLYWOOD—The West Hollywood station of the Los Angeles Sheriffs hurriedly put together a prostitution abatement team to make up for the loss of several hundred hours of duty-time it owed the city.

West Hollywood contracts with L.A. County for its police protection, but had recently transferred a number of deputies to other assignments.

Portions of Santa Monica Blvd. have been popular with gay men for years for both cruising and hustling, particularly a strip running from the City of West Hollywood through the City of L.A. A growing number of the youth—many of whom are homeless—practicing survival prostitution are young men of color. Special neighborhood watch signs posted on the street identify the "Prostitution Abatement Area," which warns that all prostitution-related laws will be enforced.

There have been repeated complaints that black and Latino men walking on the boulevard are disproportionately stopped by deputies and questioned.

Black Gay Man Wins Case

WASHINGTON—A gay man in Washington D.C. was recently awarded \$20,000 in damages after the settlement of a discrimination complaint he filed against the city's Department of Human Services (DHS).

Kevin Dickerson claimed that a DHS employee, after opening his case file and discovering he was a person with AIDS, said she would have to ask him to sit in a seat away from her desk.

The D.C. District Commission ruled that DHS discriminated against Dickerson and ordered the agency to pay the \$20,000 damage settlement plus attorney fees.

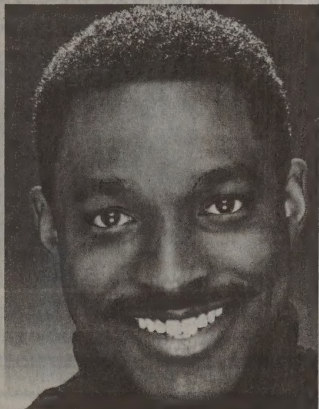
During a reception held at Rascals, Dickerson "tithed" donations to several agencies whose services he has used since his AIDS diagnosis, including the Whitman-Walker Clinic AIDS Foundation and their Black Male Empowerment Group.

Chambers Stars in 3-Part Play

DETROIT—Wayne Preston Chambers, a masters candidate at Wayne State University, presented a performance in three parts, *Triptych*, at the Harmonie Park Playhouse in downtown Detroit.

Triptych is a one-man play concentrating on three very different personalities of black gay men. Chambers took on the challenge of portraying a gay father, a snap diva, and enacts an AIDS worker who eventually succumbs to the disease.

Chambers, who has extensive stage experience and training, co-wrote *Triptych* with Clayton Wilson and the late Allen Williams. Chambers was an early member of the black gay men's writer's coterie which evolved into Other Countries. By popular demand *Triptych's* run at Harmonic was extended through October.



Wayne Preston Chambers

Physique Medals Awarded

SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly a third of the 37 medals won at Physique '91, the fifth annual Lesbian and Gay Bodybuilding Championship, went to people of color. The event, sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, featured athletes from around the world competing for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Medals were awarded in both men's, women's and mixed pairs divisions, including categories for bodybuilders over 40, 50 and 60 years of age. Jon DeLeon repeated his win last year for best poser, and also picked up a gold medal with Andy Anderson for men's pairs. Jan Austin lugged home the most medals of the evening, picking up the Gold for women's best poser and women's best abdominals and a Silver in the women's heavyweight division.

Mayor Makes Gay Selection

KANSAS CITY—Mayor Emanuel Cleaver attended the 1991 lesbian and gay pride celebration with his family and announced the appointment of Luther Washington as liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

A 30-member mayoral commission was formed including African-Americans Rita Rogers, Aaron Swar, Rev. Nelson Thompson, Bill Whitcomb and former city councilperson Joann Collins, who also serves as chair. The commission has already submitted a report with recommendations for meeting the needs of the lesbian and gay community.

Right wing fundamentalists harassed Cleaver, who is black, from the beginning of his campaign for mayor. The attacks, which mixed racism and homophobia, did not end with his electoral victory.

Prior to the announced appointments, meetings were held with various lesbian and gay leaders to iron out differences of opinion and misunderstandings.

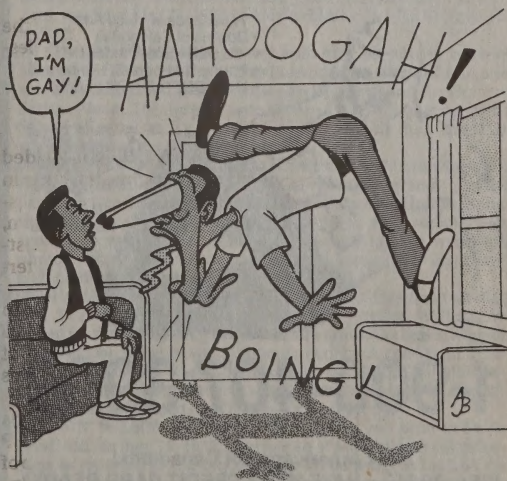
Panel Discusses Black Gays

SEATTLE—The Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays hosted a roundtable discussion on homosexuality in the Randolph Carter Center, located in the black community. The event was co-sponsored by Mayor Norm Rice and organized by Commissioner Milton Farquhar, both of whom are African-American. Also, co-sponsoring were the Black Family Center and People of Color Against AIDS Network.

The roundtable discussion was intended to serve as a forum for heterosexual Blacks to express feelings and perceptions of homosexuality as related to three main topics: youth and self esteem, harassment, and HIV/AIDS. The objective was to explore attitudes, debunk myths and develop a plan of action that would lead to improved relations and cooperation between gay and non-gay community members.

The discussions were led by Deborah L. Johnson of Los Angeles and W.J. Brandy Moore of San Francisco, both longtime black gay activists.

—Tripp Hunter



"Coming out to loved ones occasionally produces the 'Roger Rabbit' effect."

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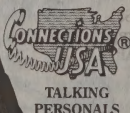
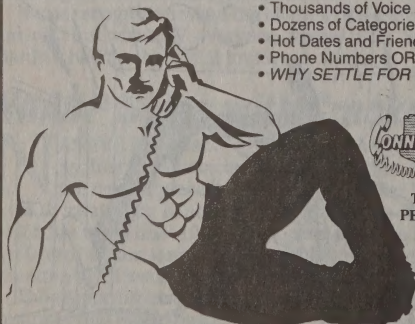


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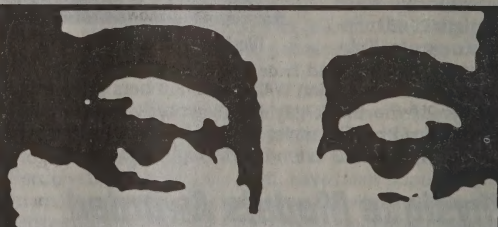
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Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

FREDERICK ABRAMSON, died June 1 of AIDS related complications in Washington, D.C. according to the *Washington Blade*. He was 56. Abramson, a native New Yorker, was a graduate of Yale University in 1956 and the University of Chicago Law School in 1959. Among his many achievements Abramson was the first black person to head the Office of Bar Counsel for the D.C. Bar. He was particularly concerned with educating his legal colleagues on AIDS issues. He was a panel member for Whitman-Walker Clinic's AIDS Foundation.

JAMES LEROY AUSTIN, died Mar. 17 of complications associated with AIDS. Austin was born Aug. 7, 1923, grew up in Virginia later moving to New York. Near the end of World War II he joined the Army and also served in the Korean War. While living in New York, Austin worked as a motion picture projectionist in many 42nd Street movie houses. He was 68. He is survived by family and numerous friends.

BENJAMIN SCHUBERT BABER, died July 12 of AIDS related complications as disclosed in the *Washington Blade*. Baber, attended Pratt Institute of Design in New York and worked as a fashion designer. Many of his designs were featured in fashion shows, including those of the Congressional Black Caucus. As a resident for some time in the Washington area, Baber appeared on talk shows and local news broadcasts that featured his designs. He was 34.

DAVID WARREN FRECHETTE, 43, was born Feb. 21, 1948 and died May 11 of AIDS related complications. An active member of MACT and GMAD, Frechette was also a founding member of Other Countries. As a journalist he conducted interviews with prominent people. He also wrote numerous essays, reviews, short stories and poems. Some of his work is found in *Brother to Brother*. He will be included in *The Road Before Us (100 Gay Black Poets)* and his poetry manuscript *Too Through* will be published in 1992.

HENRY FRANKLIN JACKSON, born May 2, 1939 in Warm Springs, Ga., was a world-renowned professor and lecturer in African-American Studies and Political Science at Hunter College. Hunter received his B.A. in Political Science from Ohio State, his M.A. in Political Science from Colombia and his Ph.D. in Algeria. Among his published works are his poem, "Cafe de Banzo"; two books, *The FLN in Algeria: Party Development in a Revolutionary Society* and *From the Congo to Soweto: U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Africa Since 1960*. Hunter died Aug. 15 at the age of 52 of AIDS related complications.

JOSEPH JAMES, born Christmas Day, 1955, died May 30, 1991 according to B.A.R. James was born and raised in Eastman, Ga. and moved to Atlanta in 1976 where he became successful as a fashion designer. He took the grand prize in the National Beekeeper Fashion and Jazz design competition. He is survived by George Taylor, his lover of nearly ten years; his brother and sister-in-law; and other family and friends.

ALBERT TERRELLE JONES, also well known as "Miss T" was born Nov. 2, 1951 and died June 6 as reported in *This Week in Texas*.

ALFONSO JULIUS JORDAN died of AIDS associated complications at the age of 49. He was born Mar. 8, 1942 in New York City and was raised in Harlem and Savannah. After living in Detroit, Brooklyn and New York, he settled in New Jersey in 1973. Jordan was employed as a tutor and community aide at the United Community Corporation and International Youth Organization. His interest was in

fashion and design. A parishioner of Grace Episcopal Church in Newark gospel music was his inspiration.

HOWARD MORRIS, died April 16 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. He was 31. Morris had degrees in Marketing and Nursing and was a certified therapist and holistic practitioner. He was founder and president of Holistic Health Alternatives and director of nursing for the Whitman-Walker Clinic. He was a consultant to IMPACT and chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and a co-founder of Us Helping Us. Morris was a member of the Unity Church of Christianity.

LUIS ROBERTO NEGRON of Washington, D.C., died on May 11 of AIDS-related complications. Negron, 24, was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He studied airlines and tourism briefly at International College in San Juan. He is survived by his mother, Carmen; sisters, Desire and Priscella; brothers, Oscar and Ruben; aunt, Carmen; and his friend, Ric Potter.

WILLIAM "BILL" PEELER JR., died June 23 of AIDS related complications according to a report in the *Washington Blade*. A graduate of Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., he attended Washington Technical Institute to pursue his education. Peeler was employed by the Washington Transit Authority for the past 10 years as a bus operator. He is survived by his parents, a host of relatives and many friends.

ANTHONY TOMORRIS PUGH-DAVIS, was born Feb. 19, 1961 in Flushing, N.Y. He was 30 when he died Aug. 11 of AIDS related complications. A graduate of both Crenshaw High School and Los Angeles Southwest College. He worked as a counselor or teacher at the Exceptional Children's Foundation, Holllypark Christian School and Arminta Street Children's Clinic. Pugh-Davis was a member of Unity Fellowship Church where he led the Unity Steppers in the 1990 Christopher Street West Parade.

FREDDY L. ROBINSON, died April 18 of AIDS related complications. He was 35. Born Mar. 3, 1956 in Greenville, Miss., he first moved to Dallas before he made Houston his home. Robinson is survived by his lover, Larry Treece, and many other friends.

JEFFREY SCOTT, died June 11, of AIDS related complications as disclosed in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Scott, a San Francisco Bay Area resident, was born May 27, 1959 and for some time lived in Chicago. He was 32.

JOHN EDWARD STOCKARD, JR. was born Mar. 29, 1946 in Jackson, Mich. From 1964 to 1968, Stockard served in the Marine Corps and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. For the past several years he was employed by the Salvation Army as an executive chef. Stockard died July 7 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

CLARENCE THOMAS ROSS JR., was born June 4, 1952. Growing up in Baltimore he attended Kalamazoo College and later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he attended Stanford Univ. for some time. He was employed by IBM for 11 years, most recently as a senior systems engineer. His interests included music, travel and photography. Thomas-Ross died July 3 of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

MILTON WILLIAMS, well known caterer, author and restaurateur died Aug. 23 after a lengthy illness. Born in Los Angeles, Williams received his formal training in the culinary arts at the Frank Wiggins Trade School. Williams was author of a cookbook and his informative *Party Book*. He was also an interior decorator. The Milton F. Williams Tutorial Center, a free school for slow learners and immigrants was maintained by Williams for many years.

ERICE "DON" WILSON, a Chicago resident who was born in South Bend, Ind. on Aug. 15, 1952, died July 16 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Gay Chicago*. While living in Indiana, he studied theater at the university. Wilson worked 13 years in a Chicago area hospital. His activism included volunteer work at Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and he served as an officer and member of Black and White Men Together/Chicago. He was 38.

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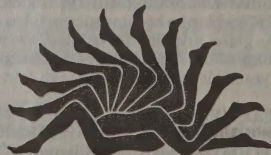
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READ MY LIPS

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Arsenio Hall is suing Arsenio's Pizza of Cleveland for using his name without his permission...The **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** sponsored an AIDS informational workshop at Atlanta's Perry Homes Recreational Auditorium...Did you see **Marion Riggs**, giving credit to the memory of **Bayard Rustin**, on the *Ron Reagan Show*?...Detroit's social scene was sparked by **BBC's** third anniversary celebration. Those of us who attended are still beaming from the class and charm. From **Robert Tate's** Friday night affair to Saturday's Top of the Pouch with the fabulous piano stylings of "**Marvin**." Then came Sunday Brunch at the St. Regis (why didn't they have, WOW, WOW) on to Jimmy's Sunday nite *savior vivre* that is to be used as the only way to entertain! Hats off to the sisters and brothers of BBC...Other News from Detroit...**Todd's Disco** that had been a part of the social scene for 16 years and closed down two years ago is *back* on Wednesdays. Hopefully Friday and Sunday will follow. A restaurant is scheduled to open in Todd's...The **James Baldwin-Pat Parker Society** of Detroit hosted a cultural event of black lesbian and gay performances entitled, "Our Names Are..." on Oct. 5 at the International Institute...**Full Truth Fellowship Church** hosted its second anniversary celebration Sept. 13-15...Denver Groups...**Sister II Sister**

meets Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, 1245 E. Calfax Ave. #125. The **African-American Gay Men's Group** meets on the first and third Sundays at 5 p.m. For further information on these or other support services available at the center call 303-831-6266; voice or TTY ...Nine of us will be among nearly 50 in an educational ad sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project. Set for the year-end issue of *People* magazine, the full-page ad includes **Vernell Armstrong, Lamond Ayers, Larry Duplechan, Antonio D. LeMons, Pamela Fairbanks, Patricia Fowlkes, Xavier Hall, Lisa Powell, April Valerio and Vallerie Wagner**. Upcoming ads will also appear in the black and Latino press...Any truth to the rumor a script is in circulation around tinseltown about invisible black lesbian ice-pick murderers who kill movie directors?...San Francisco gave birth to the Blue Lights Campaign, to put a light in the window of every American home for AIDS awareness. In Harlem, green ribbons are being worn in the black and Latino communities, but red ribbons are being worn by Broadway's actors and actresses. In Long Beach, Calif., **Project Ahead** has ribbons in a multitude of color combinations (where we chose a subtle purple and rust)...Has anyone checked out the new dating service in New York for black and Latino men? Call 212-246-

3811, ext. 255 and let us know what you find...

Creating Change West brought several hundred activists—ranging from Queer Nation types to suit-and-tie people. The ubiquitous **Phill Wilson** spoke Friday, but other African-Americans got their chance the next day: **Charles Stewart, "D" Cannon, Genie Cowan, Sandra Farrington-Domingue, Sylvia Rhue, Leonard Simon, Richard Slaughter and Ruth Waters**. The People of Color Caucus meeting was disappointing as these things usually are: frustrations aired with no direct ability to make changes... Two groups between whom no love is lost will both hold

conferences in the same city on the same days. The **Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's** National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference will take place in Oakland February 13-17, 1992. The **Black Men's Xchange's** National Cultural Gathering and Retreat will also take place in Oakland February 14-16, 1992. Since both groups have fierce loyalists, both conferences are likely to be successful. Whatever the strategy behind the double scheduling—the Forum apparently announced its dates first—the potential exists for beneficial cross-pollination. Still, we can't wait to hear the real "T" from those unaffiliated with either group.



"...and I'd like a box of Ironman unlubricated latex condoms with a reservoir tip, a jar of water-based lube containing at least 5 percent nonoxonyl-9, a supply of dental dams, an S-VHS stereo VCR with wireless remote, slo-mo and pause control, and the collected works of Ty Jones."



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Need 60 empty Marlboro cigarette packages, any style. Willing to give one free one-year subscription to BLK for each 20 empty packages. Limit: 3 subscriptions. Call first to see if offer has been filled. Alan Bell, BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. (34)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

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SERVICES

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

Eddie Smith Hairstyling for men and women, 7115 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046 (1/2 block west of La Brea), 213-874-7210 work, 213-462-1220 home. Conditioning, coloring, relaxers, perms, jheri curls, hair extensions. Featuring Nexus products. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Call for an appointment. Your satisfaction in hair care. (TF)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (E)

ORGANIZATIONS

Club F—Frottage. Multicultural social group

for frottage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

The West Indian Social Connection asks: "Would you like to get back to your roots?" Further information, call 213-962-6867 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and leave a message. (34)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nation-wide explicit adlistings. Infopak \$3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (35)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. ♀ 140. (E)

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (34)

African-American models over 18 wanted for all-male adult videos. Looking for at least one of the following: great body, gorgeous face or generous endowment. J/O only or participate with partner. Beginners OK. If you don't like the scene we shoot, or if you change your mind, we forget the whole thing. Have fun and make money. Call Scott Chandler at 213-338-9695, or send your picture to Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-388, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5166. (34)

Bookkeeper Gay Men of Color Consortium, Outreach and Promotion of Services Project, \$10-\$15. Send resume and cover letter to Gay Men of Color Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 1800 Argyle #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Attn: Elizabeth. For information, call 213-462-2273. (34)

Counselor. Qualified counselors needed immediately. Experienced and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 818-356-0027. (34)

Curator. The 1992 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival seeks a guest curator for lesbian/women's programming. This is a temporary part-time training/skill-building position that offers a stipend of \$3,000. Qualified candidate should have knowledge of contemporary lesbian film/video and possess strong

administrative skills. Experience with other film festivals a definite plus. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter to: Frameline Curator, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Distribution assistant. Frameline, a non-profit lesbian/gay film and video organization, seeks a part-time distribution assistant. Responsibilities include booking films, distributing press kits, invoicing, shipping, accounts receivable, correspondence, answering telephone inquiries and maintaining client contacts. 20 hours per week. Salary \$10-12K DOE. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to Frameline Distribution Assistant, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Fundraiser. Half-time, responsible for overall fundraising for NCLR including coordination of events, major gift campaign, membership and direct mail programs, writing of grant proposals and overseeing of United Way and combined federal campaigns. Starting date January 1, 1992. Salary: DOE, range \$12,000-15,000, 20 hours per week, plus pro-rated benefits. Send resume, including at least three references to: Liz Hendrickson, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights, 1663 Mission St., 5th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94103. (34)

Houseman. Young, honest, hard-working houseman wanted by retired professional single man in Palm Springs for part-time job: four hours per day to clean house, care for yard and pool. Small salary plus free use of separate one-bedroom furnished condo. Extra salary and possible full-time job if you have driving, cooking, massage or other skills. After six months I will pay for your books and tuition at local college if you want further education. References required. ♀ 156. (35)

Medical/clinical administrator. New clinic. Community clinic knowledge helpful. Manager/nursing background a plus. Knowledge of procedure mandatory. Experienced only. Computer experience. Motivated and organized. Don Levy, 213-259-5675. (34)

Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call The Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Director AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$24,000-\$26,000. Send resume

and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

Project Director Gay Men of Color Consortium, Outreach and Promotion of Services Project. Salary \$24,000-\$30,000. Send resume and cover letter to Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

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Female roommate wanted. Room available. \$500 month. House in North Hollywood. Edwina, 818-980-3192. (34)

Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, private room with telephone jack and wires for cable. \$400/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (34)

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Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film—horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (34)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist, racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (34)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Styvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1994. (34)

At The Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs

or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (34)

FOR SALE

"Seed Money In Action: Working the Law of Tenfold Return." Audio tape. \$12.95. Miller, Box 6211, Chula Vista, California 91909-0015. No checks please. (34)

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothings, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Email Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140lb), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by

candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile, 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. \$125-200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, \$5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Dating by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-900-726-2040 (\$2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/six months, \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. 145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. 139. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

French white man, 38, live in Paris alone, serious, sincere, romantic, seeks black man, loving, like dild. Exchange naked photos. Also audio, video tapes. François Maury, 15, rue Carmen, L'Hay Les Roses 94240, France. (34)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular,

hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Altan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

37-year-old Italian executive, brown hair, blue eyes, good looking, unneffeminate, loves movies, travel, animals, quiet week-ends, quality time. Looking for GBM unneffeminate, serious, creative, intelligent. Send detailed description and photo. Bruno Varale, Piazzale Siena 2, 20146 Milano, Italy. (34)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6626, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, home-bodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. (35)

GBM, tall, muscular, 44 years old and bottom, likes getting screwed by tall or well-built guys, 30-45. I invite men of all races to respond, but am very fond of whites. 494 Lake Park Ave. #150, Oakland, CA 94610. (34)

TV wanted, Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110, Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

Daytime BJ for masculine, firm, drug-free, HIV- males. Tenderness. Respect expected. Men of color are special treats. Phone and photo appreciated. R.B., Box 21633, Concord, CA 94521. (34)

BLK TALKING PERSONALS

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To place your ad and get your mailbox and password, fill out the form below and mail it to BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (Printed personal ads may only be placed by mail.)

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Write the text of your personal ad (up to 30 words) here. Ads that are NOT personals should use the appropriate classified ad form elsewhere in this issue.

**NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY
(NOFA) AND REQUESTS FOR
PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**TO ALL AGENCIES INTERESTED IN
SUBMITTING PROPOSALS TO
PROVIDE AIDS RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES AND/OR AIDS
EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

On Wednesday, November 27, 1991, the Office of the AIDS Coordinator, CDD Human Services & Neighborhood Development Division, will issue, subject to City Council & Mayoral approval, a NOFA for capital funding for projects providing residential services to poor, low & moderate income City residents with HIV infection and an RFP for projects delivering AIDS education and treatment information to communities at high risk for HIV infection.

On Wednesday, November 27, 1991 after 12 noon, interested parties should call the number listed below to confirm that the NOFA and RFP documents will be available to be picked up at CDD (215 West Sixth Street, 6th Floor, L.A. 90014) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Completed Residential proposals received by December 30, 1991 will be reviewed for third round funding, and completed AIDS Education proposals will be due by December 30, 1991. Information about minimum requirements, allocations of funds, eligible project types, instructions, technical assistance, and evaluation procedures is contained in the NOFA and in the cover letter of the RFP.

If you have any questions about the release of the NOFA or the RFP, please call:

**PETER ORDAZ, OFFICE OF THE AIDS
COORDINATOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
(213) 485-6320 TDD (213) 485-8532**



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(303) 458-8902

2935 Zuni

New Orleans

(504) 566-1442

700 Baronne St.

Classified Ad Form

(for Ads Other Than Personals)

■ Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.

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I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

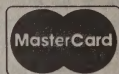
Signed _____

■ Personal ads of 30 words or less are free of charge. The 31st word and each additional word is 40 cents. Employment offered ads are 10 cents per word. All other ads take the rate of 40 cents per word.

- **Deadline:** Six weeks prior to date of publication.
- **Ads received after deadline** will appear in the following issue.
- **Open account billing** available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is \$15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*
- **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals \$15 or more.
■ Call toll-free 1-800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

■ Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.
■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912



■ Minimum for credit card billing is \$15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card _____ Expires _____
Credit card number _____

■ Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

■ **Figure cost of ad:**

_____ words at 40¢	\$ _____
_____ words at 10¢	\$ _____
Cost to run ad one month	\$ _____
Number of times you want ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	\$ _____
Phone verification at \$3 (within CA \$1)	\$ _____
Two-year (24 issues) subscription at \$30	\$ _____
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TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

TO HEAR AND LEAVE MESSAGES FOR ♀ ADS. \$1.95 FIRST MIN. 95¢ MIN. THEREAFTER.

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. (35)

Slender white bottom seeks hung GBM. Oakland area. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (34)

Attractive, muscular black man, 35, 5'11", 220, seeking other big, well-built men of any race between 20-50. French active/passive, J/O, oral body worship. Send letter with photo to 1221 Broadway, Plaza Level #13-131, Oakland, CA 94612. No feds, feds or phonies. (34)

San Diego Area

Free fone J/O submissive seeks dominator. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert toptan (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, Gr/FrA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GBM top for friendship? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. (34)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. (35)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped GBM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40+. Let's float, let's glide as inside you I ride. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

GWM seeks GBM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. (36)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

GBM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No feds, feds. Photos a plus. (35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-246-6833. (34)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, mouthached, professional, easy-going, sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Blond wants healthy, tall, GBM hung and horny. Call Roy 818-896-8890. Let me satisfy you. (34)

Plump top BM likes black buffed cake/buns to put 7 1/2" real deep. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscular defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must! Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football-player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, aggressive and versatile for fun and friendship. (34)

Boyish GWM, 36 y/o seeks black, Latin, Mid-Eastern, well hung top for friendship and more. Me: 5'10", 150 lbs., perfect ass, hung extra large, versatile. 213-936-1968. (34)

Latin R Us! Meet Latins and admirers for dates, pen friends, lovers and more. For free info send a SASE to HMS, 8721 Santa Monica Bl., #338-BK, Hollywood, CA 90069. (34)

Young, slim, masculine, black guys wanted by GWM, 45, 6'2", 165, blond, blue, (HIV-) for friendship/relationship. Inexperienced OK. Love the outdoors-camping, hiking, mountains, beach. Romantic-cud-

die, kiss, hold hands. You: great smile, independent, wants love and can give love. Non smoker/drugs. Not into bars. Ben 818-785-1028. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive GBM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

5'11" to 6'2", are you out there? Plump top with plump 7 1/2" wants to ride and slide and glide in your buns, your beautiful black buns! Write—we can have fun. David+, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

Plump top BM likes black buffed cakes/buns to put 7 1/2" real deep. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

BGM would like to meet other BLK/SP GM for friendship and maybe relationship. I am 6'1", 185 lbs., 47, top. Must be sincere, honest and into safe sex. Call 213-307-1184 and leave message. (34)

Attractive masculine black male bottom 30s, 6', 170, wants to meet very well hung masculine top studs hung 9" and over for safe fun and friendship, uncult a +, 213-932-8375 after 7 p.m. and weekends. (34)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc, prof. Send # to Box 17106, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Greg from Modesto: I was too stunned to talk right. I can't believe I forgot to ask for your phone number. Please call. (34)

Prof. BBM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open. P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A., CA 90078. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, health, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominate (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, bid whilst and spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey at 213-508-6220. Leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (34)

Canan build, BiWM, 8", 30, seeks black top, or versatile, 18-40, 8" minimum who'll be in my home video. Los Angeles area. Dan, 805-746-4601. (34)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncult HIV+ pretty boy. 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of

world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (34)

GBM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

Grateful, attractive, healthy HIV+, GM, 30s, seeking man of character, warmth, humor and spiritual foundation. Into friends, family, music, movies, dancing, outdoors, sports, sober living, world cultures and unity. RU2? Please write to M.K., Box 661011, L.A. 90066. (34)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whilst and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

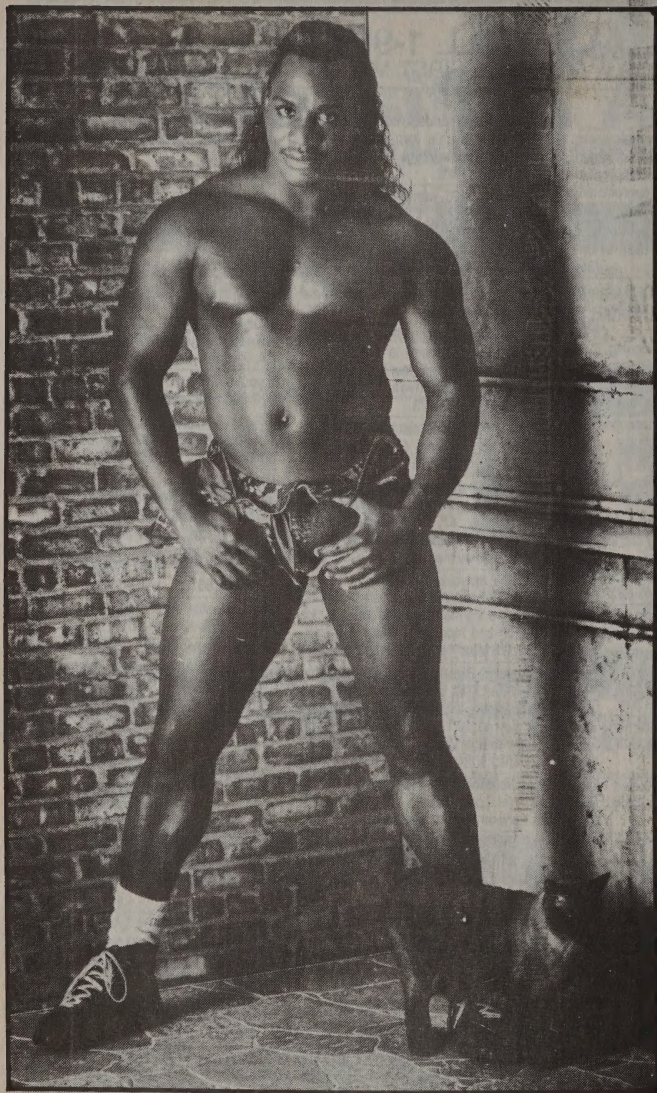
Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+ sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes,



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TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

TO HEAR AND LEAVE MESSAGES FOR ♀ ADS. \$1.95 FIRST MIN. 95¢ MIN. THEREAFTER.

into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O., Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. (34)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, attractive Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black B/M, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29, 8½ and thick. Seeks Blk or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friend-

ship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter/photo: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ♀ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/Weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny T, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo, Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff, ♀ 155. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Versatile body-builder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211 Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by

GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barely or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

GWM, 35+, 5'10", 155#, G/P, F/A, masculine, stable, multifaceted, seeks loving relationship with sincere successful GBM having similar goals and interests. Travel can be arranged. Call Mike directly. 702-792-6737. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof., clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No voices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (35)

Puerto Rican, 51, seeks top black men. Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx 10451-1574. (36)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, independent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ♀ 150. (35)

YGBM wanted for fine romance. Blond sophisticated older man (spirit of 30-year-old), witty, perspective. Seeks vital, bright, humorous 25-35. Serious fun relationship. Disco dancing, theater, films. NY/LA/VL. Photo: Box 1578, Old Chelsea Station,

NYC 10011. (34)

Elderly, African-American gent, 66, retired professional, well-educated/well-traveled/great conversationalist, white-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'3", 155), shy recessive, plain looking; seeks male friends-30 years plus; all types: African-American, Orientals/Asians, E-Indians, Native American Indians, Hispanics, Arabs, Caucasians, etc., who are masculine, aggressive, intelligent, discreet. No drugs. Dave, 212-681-0179, 9 p.m.-midnight only. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

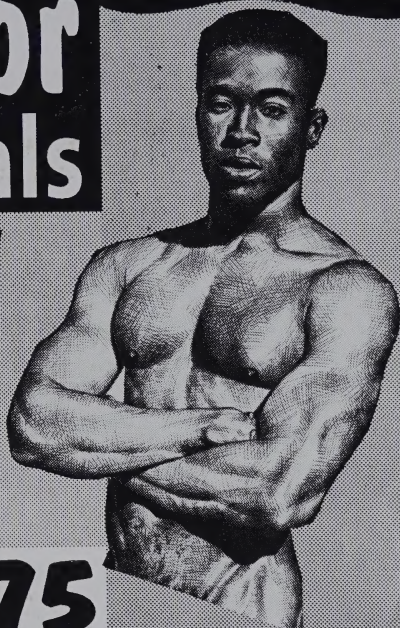
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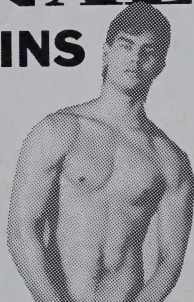
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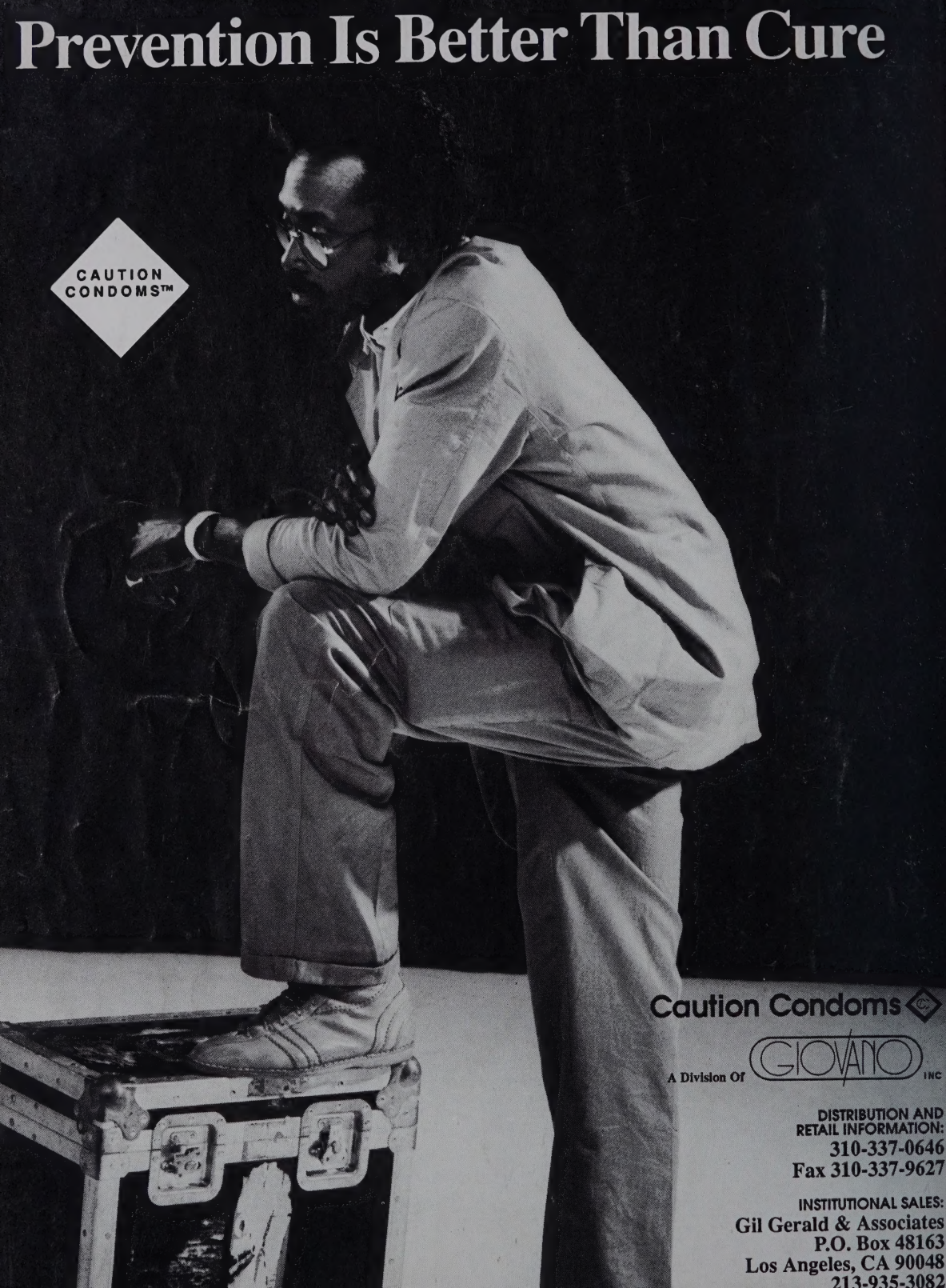


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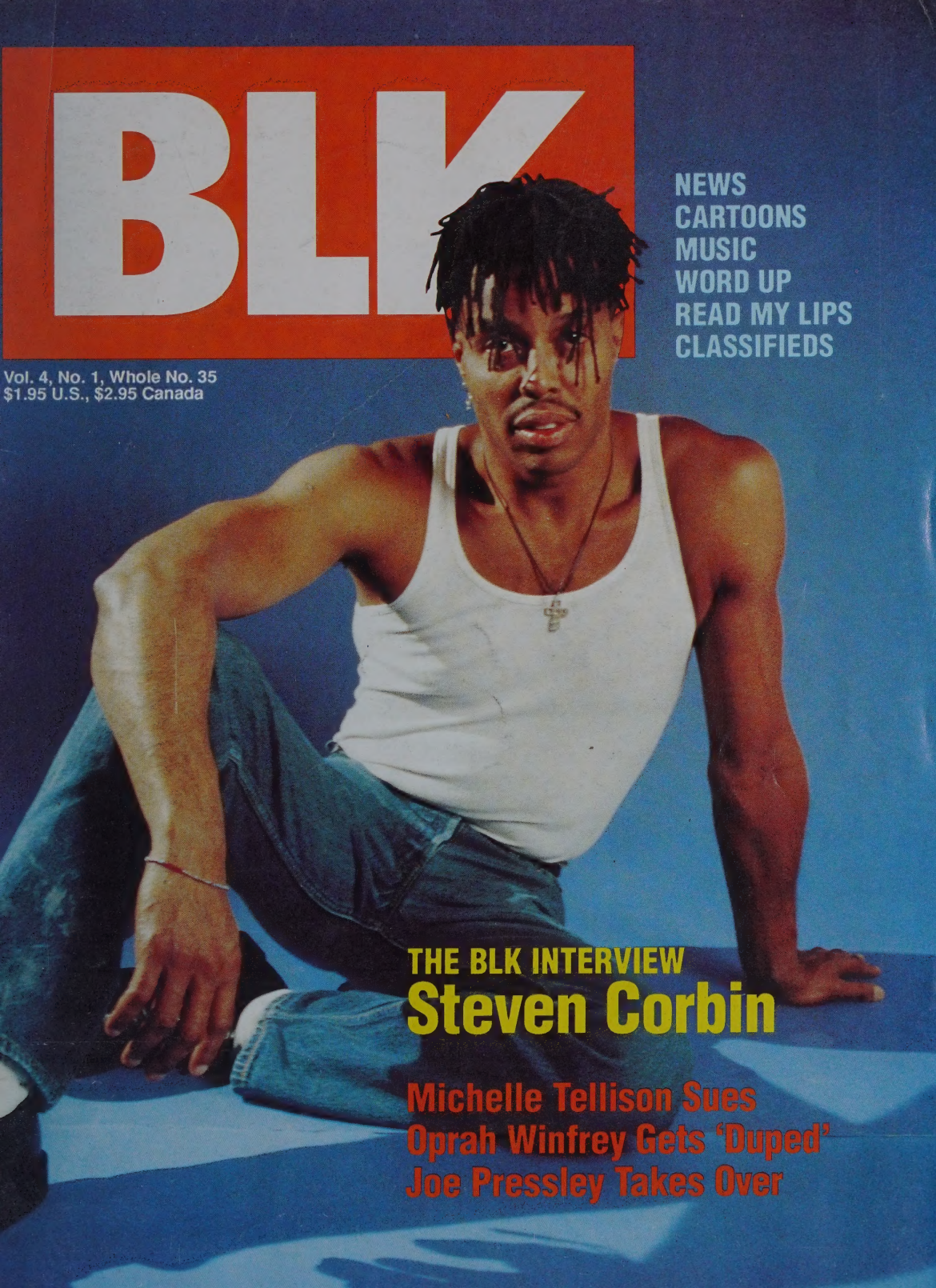
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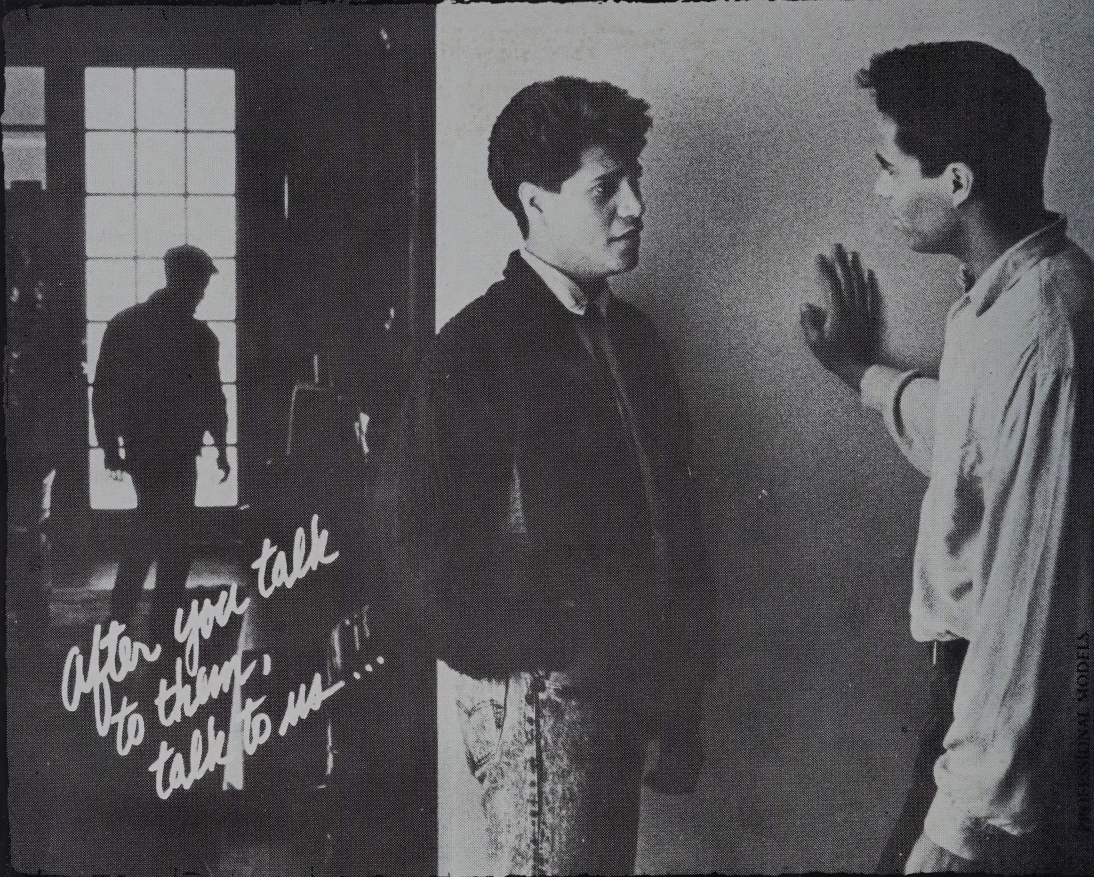


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THE BLK INTERVIEW **Steven Corbin**

**Michelle Tellison Sues
Oprah Winfrey Gets 'Duped'
Joe Pressley Takes Over**



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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEX IN THE BACK SEAT?

A police officer arrested a man for disorderly conduct outside Loretta's, a popular black gay bar in Atlanta.

In routine fashion, she put her prisoner in the rear of her patrol car beside another suspect already in custody. After the officer finished writing her report, she peered inside, and caught the two prisoners having sex.

She promptly charged both men with sodomy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FLORIDA-STYLE

While the nation has recovered from the arrest of Paul Reubens (né Pee Wee Herman) in SARASOTA, other entrapment-style practices across the Sunshine State are still raising eyebrows.

WEST PALM BEACH police, suffering a shortage of black narcotics officers, decided to wear blackface in order to make drug sales. But the scheme failed when no customers bought what the cops were selling.

BROWARD COUNTY Sheriff Nick Navarro is proud to take the cake for homophobia having acquired a hard-headed reputation for relentlessly raiding gay establishments. At least two lawsuits have been filed and 36 accounts of police brutality have been documented. Even the local chapter of the NAACP has complained about the overuse of police dogs on minorities.



Apple



IBM

But the ethics in government award goes to BROWARD COUNTY sheriff's deputy Jeff Willets and wife, Kathy, busted for prostitution, whose little black book might prove more scandalous and name more names than Kitty Kelly. The appropriately titled "vice" mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, Doug Danziger, who campaigned to shut down "adult" businesses, resigned amid speculation that he was among those named in the book.

IBM AND APPLE GO BLACK

There are dog people and cat people. Benz people and Beamer people. But some of the most fierce oneupmanship is between IBM people and Apple people.

But the arch rivals, who recently announced a joint venture, have come to agree on something else as well.

In the Nov. 11, 1991 issue of *PC Week*, an ad touting Apple products uses a photograph showing a black athlete in mid-air, muscles agleaming.

A few pages later, an IBM ad also uses a photograph of a black athlete—this one from an angle few people ever get to enjoy in their lifetime. It is topped by the headline, "Why be content to run when you can fly?"

There was a time when Madison Avenue sold products by having smiling white women in bathing suits with their heads tilted slightly to the side lightly touch the products. But I like the new black homoeroticism much better.

BLK MAIL

WHO SCREWED (UP) JOE SIMMONS?

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the letters to the editor ("BLK Mail," August, 1991). One that touched me most was the one written by a brother who had noticed that throughout the filming career of Joe Simmons only once had he been seen getting fucked in the ass by a black man. I've seen him clearly being fucked by white men. Sad but Joe is typical of many thousands of African American males and there is no screen to point out this behavior of the many. We who are black oriented always held the belief that many black bi and gay men put and maintain limitations on what they do sexually with other black men but have no limitations with white men. By the

way, there is a super hung brother who appears in a film called *Darkmen* and *Hammer*. He appears in the same films with blacks but only once in the same cast. I became very upset when once he and another brother were cast together but they never touched each other. Both were working on this one white boy making sure in changing positions that they made no contact. Sorry! All the cotton fields, antebellum homes, Sambo and Mr. Charlie came into view. I really would like others to comment on why so many black men are in this frame of mind. Also, very important is how many so called black heterosexual males are but closets in the imagines of Joe Simmons and whether or not the A-I-D-S is in the straight black community are not straight after all. I'm afraid we

might have a Joe Simmons crisis whereas these men are having their anuses enlarged with white dicks and returning to the black woman. Now the same men no doubt become very anti black faggot and become very upset if cruised by one.

Bob Stocks
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Editor:

First and foremost whomever your appointee is does not need their head examined, but the person that wrote that incredibly idiotic letter does. When I read that letter in the August 1991 issue of BLK all I could think was how could they let a letter of that magnitude of stupidity get published. Let me just say that I enjoy your magazine thoroughly and I along with I'm sure many other share this opinion. If the person who wrote that letter had took time out to review their record or even question their interest in the betterment of their education they wouldn't have not written that letter.

Instead of learning the facts they were so quick to call someone an Uncle Tom. To set the record straight, Joe Simmons has bent over for a brother as they put it in his porno films. The title of the film is called *Black Magic*. I am not trying to justify this one occasion as an excuse for Mr. Simmons for not doing it more than once. I am merely responding to the incorrect statement that was made. I quote, "In the 30 plus films I've seen Mr. Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a

white boy, yes several—but not a black man."

In closing, I'd like to say that I really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. I really wouldn't worry about losing this person as a reader because to be frank you really don't need people that idiotic reading your magazine who obviously are too dumb to comprehend it anyway. In the name of black minds and beauty I also bid you peace, love, good luck and high hopes. I also apologize for the stupidity of my fellow brother and as a former New Yorker I hope this has no bearing on us and we should pray for high hopes that their act comes together soon.

Kiburi Lacy
San Francisco, Calif.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES THOMAS

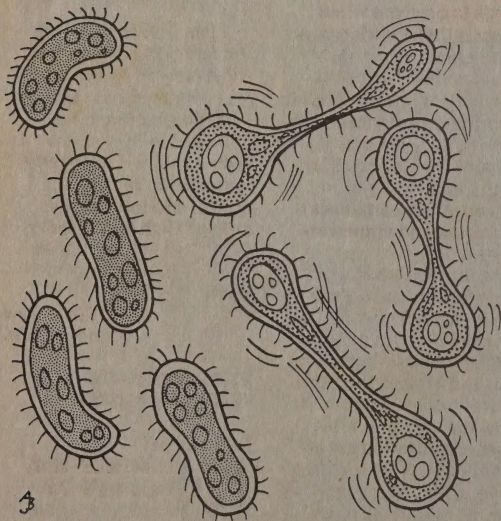
Dear Editor:

I recently read a letter by a James L. Thomas ("BLK Mail," August, 1991) who called the "gay lifestyle" an appalling abomination.

I wonder if this person has ever looked into personal ads, swinger magazines, taken a good look at today's society and I'd like him to know there are millions, upon millions of gay and bisexual people in the USA. I'd like to know what his problem seems to be? If he's so homophobic, why bother to read and write a letter of protest to BLK magazine?

It's 1992 Mr. Thomas let's wake up please, we are in the age of gay and human rights!

Eugene Clarrington
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Black gay publications evolve.

Dear Editor:

James L. Thomas writes, "For a country built on the slogan, 'In God We Trust,' I sometimes wonder what we are coming to."

First, he seems unaware that the slogan, which ironically was the same as that found on Nazi soldiers' belt buckles, was legislated onto our currency during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. The Founding Fathers were deists, not theists.

Second, he admits that "homosexuality is an abomination to God," which points the finger to the root of homophobia: organized Christian religion.

Warren A. Smith
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

This is an immediate response to Minority Business Association President James L. Thomas of Inglewood, Calif., who had the gall to write an ignorant letter to you opposing the issue of AB 101. I hope he reads this.

Well, Mr. Thomas, who the hell do you think you are? Has the Queen of Paradise Island died and left you her throne? Is it your time of the month? Inquiring black gay and lesbian minds would like to know. It's a crying shame that Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a significant stepping stone that would have allowed my California gay and lesbian peers the opportunity to rest a little easier. They'll remember his fucked up stance come the next election. Keep in your non-lubricated mind that anyone who seeks an office will seek the gay and lesbian vote. And now you're up to date, honey.

Furthermore, you're just pouting as if you've stained

your panties that [legislators] Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker supported AB 101. Take your wannabe fundamentalist ass back to your place of worship and learn some sensitivity. (Oh, I forgot, *real* men like you [sike] aren't supposed to be sensitive.) Wake up and sniff your panties because you are not the "T"!

A gay teenager is contemplating suicide this very moment and you have the nerve to criticize. I'm young, (21 years old), black and gay. I love black men, and you'll never have the power to take my love for black men away, sucka! I was a lonely gay teenager contemplating suicide, trying to deal with my emotionally and verbally abusive mother, but I survived. I held on to my dreams, I made it to manhood, despite the close-minded homophobia and heterosexism.

I'm thankful for many things, like the fact that here in Chicago, gay and lesbian taxpayers are protected under the law, it's called the Human Rights Ordinance, for your information, sweetheart. You probably don't know your dick from an inchworm and then you have the nerve to spread your stupid ignorance. If you ever come to Chicago trying to publicly denounce gay and lesbian citizens, I'll fuck you up on the spot. You're absolutely hopeless in understanding the love my black gay brothers have for each other. Some people *never* come out! (Hint, hint). Maybe you've been sipping too many strawberry daiquiris with Jawsan Kunju-fu. I guess you've been gossiping with Haki Madhubuti too. If you're looking for a cat fight, you've found one here, your internalized homophobia is played out, my brother. You can take

your 8-track tape philosophy and shove it where you know you want to be penetrated.

Antonio Sharp
Chicago, Ill.

'HIGH RISK, LOW PRIORITY' DISSED AND APPLAUDED

Dear Editor:

In response to Michael Broder's article in the July 1991 issue of BLK, I am totally "through"; this article should be entitled "Michael Broder Turns a Totally Blind Eye to The Black Men's Xchange." BMX has provided the only effective culturally sensitive AIDS education and prevention program in the East Bay (which is part of the Bay area by the way) targeting black men who love men, and has been doing so for the past two years, reaching over 400 African-American (black) men. Because of BMX black men are now on AIDS Advisory Boards, involved with community planning councils etc., I think that credit needs to be given where credit is due. I understand that organizations have agendas that they are attempting to broaden, but in the African-American community, the BMX agenda remains the same and is consistent. We promote African-American (black) education and empowerment.

As the National Coordinator for the Black Men's Xchange, I am offended; the work that our organization has been doing in Oakland and around the country was totally ignored. We have already done what other organization are attempting to do or dream of doing, with little or no monies, and we are successful because of the love and commitment that we have for our people. Other

organizations are failing because they are not committed to, or understanding of, the needs of the black community. This love originates in the heart, and is directed at the black community, not the funding source.

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
BMX
Oakland, Calif.

The editor replies: BLK apologies to BMX and all the other organizations whose AIDS-related work in the black gay community was not mentioned in Michael Broder's article.

A more complete list of AIDS organizations doing work in the black community appears in the BLK List published in these pages periodically.

Dear Editor:

Two years ago while attending the NBGLLF in Atlanta I expressed my concerns about the lack of critical articles and coverage of black feminist issues in BLK.

I just finished reading the July '91 issue and was most pleased by the progress your staff has made in providing a more even-handed coverage of our communities. I especially appreciated reading the critical and informative article "High Risk, Low Priority" by Michael Broder. KUDOS to you and your staff.

Skye Ward
Berkeley, Calif.

FIVE-POINTS ON JEFFREY DAHMER

Dear Editor:

Mark Haile's story about the Dahmer incident in Milwaukee, while generally OK, has some serious flaws. As a person who has been

involved in the core of this unfolding story, and the Director of the Hate/ Crimes reporting, I would like to correct some points.

a) in my opinion it is an error to call Dahmer a "gay" man. He is homosexual and very confused, but to call him "gay" suggests that he accepts his sexuality...it is clear that he didn't.

b) it is totally incorrect to state that Milwaukee is a city not known for its tolerance. Do we forget history so quickly? Wisconsin was the first state to include sexual orientation in its non discrimination policies 9 years ago. Milwaukee passed its own version as well. The religious community here helped make that happen. I will not say that there are not problems with racism and homophobia, but the leadership of this community is very open.

c) the phrase "homosexual overkill" was indeed used, however, after the Dahmer story broke, within less than 48 hours the media were NOT using the term because several of us in the leadership of the community confronted it and it was stopped, cold!

d) Milwaukee has one of the best informed media in America. All major media here have undergone "sensitivity training" sessions many years ago. The media has NOT "played up the murders as a logical extension of homosexual behavior," as you suggest. Rather, one talk show host, Mark Belling, who caters to the lunatic fringe right wing made that statement. No one else in the media here supported it. Quite to the contrary, the coverage and sensitivity by the media to gays and lesbians was exemplary!

e) And, while there certainly is homophobia and racism in the Milwaukee Police Department, it is

vital to know that all cadets of the past 5+ years have been exposed to some gay/lesbian sensitivity training. On top of that, the Command Staff, lead by Chief Phillip Arreola, had already been reaching out to the gay/lesbian community to implement cultural awareness training to all line officers and command staff before Dahmer.

Ralph F Navarro
Milwaukee, Wis.

The editor replies: Ralph Navarro's hometown pride is commendable if somewhat overwrought, and his need to defend media which partially responded to the local lesbian and gay community's consciousness-raising is understandable. But Milwaukee's press set the initial tone for nationwide media coverage and subsequent damage control was inadequate. a) We agree that Dahmer doesn't accept his homosexuality. b) Milwaukee's record on gay issues does not, to us, obviate its mediocre record on racial issues. c) You cannot put the genie of media homophobia back in the bottle. d) and e) Glad to hear it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 35

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ON THE COVER: Steven Corbin. Photo by Bruce Hunt.

BLK PEOPLE

SAN FRANCISCO Rev. Jesse Jackson urged the lesbian and gay community to remain calm in response to the veto of California's AB101 anti-discrimination law. He spoke to several thousand at a Castro St. rally.

HOUSTON Martha Wash struck it up at Heaven Oct. 5.

NEW YORK Tito Antonio Davis appeared in concert at Outmusic Coffeehouse Dec. 15.

ATLANTA Darryl Walker was profiled in the Aug. 29 issue of Southern Voice.

LOS ANGELES Rev. George A. Stallings celebrated the inaugural mass for his new Imani Temple/Los Angeles Nov. 10.

CHICAGO Pangea and Clubhouse co-owners Robert Yeaworth and Sam Davis were named "Owners of the Year" by the Mr. Windy City competition.

PHOENIX Mr. Q stripped down to a G at GB's Rendezvous—and will probably do it again.

SARATOGA, Calif. Black Men's Xchange co-founder Cleo Manago led a "Confronting Racism" workshop at the 14th annual California Men's Conference. He also appeared with Dr. Hawkins Mitchell in Friday night's opening ceremonies.

WASHINGTON Stephen Bridges, 28, a volunteer with the Inner City AIDS Network who plays classical violin in his spare time, was profiled in the *Washington Blade* recently.

DALLAS Chris Dickerson, former Mr. America, Mr.

Universe and Mr. Olympia, was a guest poser and judge at the "Night of Pride" Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships in September. Dickerson has also made guest appearances at the Arcadia Championships in San Francisco and the Gay Games in Vancouver.

LOS ANGELES Marlon T. Riggs was presented with a "Distinguished Documentary Award" by the International Documentary Association Nov. 1. He was honored for *Color Adjustment*.

NEW YORK *Spin Cycle* by Aaron Burch, *Chasing the Moon* by Dawn Suggs and *Diotima* by Jack Waters were featured at the Fifth New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival in September.

AMHERST, Mass. Nuru-dafina Pili Abena performed at the second annual Northampton/Amherst Lesbian Festival recently.

CHICAGO Sydney Johnson was crowned Mr. Rainbow Revue in September.

HOUSTON World heavyweight champ George Foreman donated \$100,000 to the AIDS Foundation of Houston in September.

WASHINGTON Cindy Smith was elected president of the Black Lesbian Support Group at a meeting held Sept. 14.

NEW YORK Michael Cummings, whose African-inspired quilts fetch up to \$10,000 apiece—was profiled in the *New York Times*.

TACOMA Sgt. Perry Watkins was featured on BET's *Our Voices* in September.

SAN FRANCISCO Dr. Hawkins Mitchell completed a three-part series about his

Dream Lodge, a self-improvement workshop.

NEW YORK Connie Lofton appeared at Outmusic Coffeehouse Nov. 17.

PHILADELPHIA Rebecca Helem and Jon Ross were elected to the 15-member board of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride of Delaware Valley.

DALLAS Cody West took first place in the light heavyweight division at the North American Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships Sept. 20.

NEW YORK Sandra J. Lowe, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been named director of the Governor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

CHICAGO First-time author Kikki Baker was profiled in the *Advocate*. Her *In the Game* has just been

released by Naiad Press.

LONDON Whitney Houston made a surprise appearance at an AIDS march organized by the Brent HIV Centre.

LOS ANGELES Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Zachary have completed a mural on the west wall of the Minority AIDS Project. The project was commissioned by the Social and Public Art Resource Center.

SAN DIEGO Openly gay Stan Lewis has been appointed council representative by newly elected City Councilmember Valerie Stallings.

NEW YORK Gary Paul Wright appears at Outmusic Coffeehouse in January.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. E. Lloyd Napier and the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble staged *A Song for My Brother*.



"In the sixties it was the Chicago 7, in the seventies it was the Jackson 5, in the eighties it was the Frustaci 7, and in the ninties it's Noxynol 9."

ers last month.

HOUSTON Michelle Parkerson screened several of her documentaries at the Museum of Fine Arts in November.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Marjorie Hill spoke at Jewel's Catch One recently in an event organized by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

NEW YORK Gerideau displayed his female illusions at Sweetwater's in November.

DALLAS Jerome Palmer won the Ms. Butch Desert Moon contest in September.

ATLANTA Mayor Maynard Jackson withdrew an Honorary Citizenship award after he found out the woman to receive it had been a man before a 1974 sex change operation.

CHICAGO Essex Hemphill appeared with Alison Bechdel celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Gerber/Hart Library Oct. 25.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis performed at A Different Light Bookstore in December.

WASHINGTON Melvin Dixon, Essex Hemphill, Assotto Saint, Joseph Corman, Larry Ferguson, Steve Langley and Harry Lewis were among those honored at a reception sponsored by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Black and White Men Together/DC and the Encore Social Club.

NEW YORK Pepper La Beija hosted "A Night of Fabulous Fakes" at the Apollo Theater on Nov. 2.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. Lyle Ashton Harris was one of the participants in "Disputed Identities" a survey of photographs mounted at the California Museum of Photography.

LOS ANGELES Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens facilitated a workshop, "Healing Your Inner Child," in September.

WASHINGTON Dr. Ron Simmons was the guest of Leonard Green on Ch. 32's *Talk TV* Nov. 1.

PORTLAND, Ore. Clodie Wright, 60, was profiled in the Oct. issue of *Just Out*.

NEW YORK Cheryl Clarke and Donald Woods helped launch the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library with an evening of readings Oct. 23.

OAKLAND Corey Davis, a 22-year-old novice teacher was profiled in *San Francisco Examiner*.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan was honored by the *Los Angeles Sentinel* as one of the newspaper's "Community Service Honorees."

WASHINGTON Mandy Carter was recently named to the board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

SAN FRANCISCO Marilyn, who finds "the curve of her waist" her favorite part of a woman's body, appeared unclothed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *On Our Backs*.

SEATTLE Gwen Hall was named to the Interim Coordinating Committee of the National March on Washington.

WASHINGTON Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr., Penn State's assistant director of religious affairs, urges black churches to drop moral judgements about PWAs and become more involved in prevention. "Black churches can learn from the gay community's response in this area," he said.

LOS ANGELES Monica Palacios takes her show, *Latin Lezbo Comic* to the Celebration Theatre through Jan. 5.

MIAMI John Minnis, winner of \$100,000 in the Star

Search '91 "Best Male Vocalist" competition, performed at Uncle Charlie's Oct. 11.

NEW YORK DiAna DiAna and Dr. Bambi Sumpter were the subject of a video shown at the Center in November.

SAN FRANCISCO Wayne Corbitt performed in *Blackbirds Boogie* at Josie's in October and at the New Lagton Arts in November.

NEW YORK Alice Walker read from her new book of poems, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, at the 92nd St. Y's Poetry Center Oct. 7.

LOS ANGELES Bobby Smith, office manager for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Clinic, was profiled in the Sept./Oct. *AHF Caregiver*.

CHICAGO Sgt. Perry Watkins, who recently won his battle with the U.S. Army after being dismissed because he was gay, spoke at the Rodde Center Oct. 13.

SACRAMENTO Christine Adams-Tripp, Phill Wilson and Wendell Carmichael were named to serve on a HIV Anti-Discrimination Task Force formed by California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

SAN FRANCISCO Gregory Adams, an AIDS educator, fundraiser and erotic movie star, was honored by the Shanti Project at a dinner and ceremony Oct. 3.

LOS ANGELES Jennifer Holliday performed Dec. 7 at Probe's Anniversary Party.

WASHINGTON After a three-year search, Rev. David G. Morrow has been picked to succeed Dr. James Tinney as head of Faith Temple.

LOS ANGELES Larry Pickens, lover of L.A. School Boardmember Jeff Horton, had his own public coming out in a well-done interview

in the *Los Angeles Times*.

OAKLAND Dr. Germán Maisonet spoke at Providence Hospital Oct. 25 on "African-American Men Living in the Age of AIDS." His talk was sponsored by the African-American AIDS, Support-Services and Survival Institute.

NEW YORK Choreographer David Rousève was profiled both in the *Washington Blade* and in the *Advocate* recently.

PHILADELPHIA Horace Godwin co-facilitated a retreat, "Personal Power for the Gay '90s: A Weekend Retreat in the Poconos" Sept. 27-29.

WASHINGTON Venus Thrash and Stuart Adams discussed images of black lesbians and gay men in the straight black press with Barry Murray, editor of the *Capitol Spotlight* and Deborah Tang, director of news and public affairs for BET at a panel discussion Sept. 9. The meeting was hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, GLAAD/DC and moderated by Sabrina Sojourner.

SAN DIEGO Terri Mason was featured in a concert of his own works at First Unitarian Church Nov. 16. Also on the program were Preston Rawlings, Regina Anderson, Deborah McClelland and Marietta Clewis.

LOS ANGELES Carlton Wilborn performed in Alan Bowne's *Beirut* in September.

PORTLAND La Tricia Ransom and Milo were featured in a coming out article in the October issue of *Just Out*.

LOS ANGELES Comedienne Karen Williams was the Friday night M.C. at the second annual Women's Fun Festival Sept. 20-22. She was also profiled in the *Advocate* recently.

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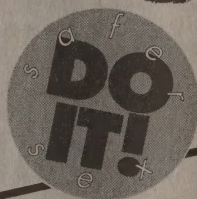
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Michelle Tellison had endured enough. Cerebral Palsy had left her in need of a wheel chair for most of her life. In 1980, Tellison began using MetroLift, a special program of Houston's Metro Transit System for handicapped or disabled people providing curb-to-curb service.

In 1985, Tellison began to have problems with drivers for the transit system—nationally considered one of the worst in the country in terms of service—

another company, Eagle Paratransit.

Tellison said the judge got "a real earful," as Frye described Tellison's experiences.

"Specifically, Michelle is being preached religion, and church, and interpretation of sin, and the Bible, by employees of a tax-supported agency. That tax-supported agency, supported by one percent of your eight-percent sales tax, is Metro. She is being told what she can and cannot read. She is being asked

Black Lesbian Seeks \$10 Million in Damages from City Transit System

after publishing an article that called for the formation of a support group for disabled lesbians and gay men.

Tellison said she had difficulties with drivers taking her to, or picking her up from Houston women's bars. The drivers would openly make comments about lesbians and sex, threatening to curtail service for her because of ticketing irregularities, and one time driving off and leaving her stranded after she had fallen out of her wheelchair.

This abuse led to Houston attorney Phyllis Frye filing suit against the Metro Transit System for \$10,000 in Harris County State District Court. Twenty-nine incidents were described in the lawsuit.

After the third court room hearing, Frye refilled the discrimination suit, asking for damages of \$10,000,000, after the harassment continued despite an order from the judge prohibiting it. Frye, a long-time champion for lesbian and gay legal issues, refused to be daunted after transit officials were unable to provide positive identification in naming the drivers, delaying the trial. Part of the difficulty as well was proving to the judge that the harassment was legally definable

questions or subjected to comments about sex, sexuality, sexual partners and desires to have sex. All of this goes on while she is a captive passenger on the MetroLift vans."

After Tellison discovered her name on a list of clients of MetroLift to be singled out for harassment, Frye went back into court to obtain photos of the drivers involved, who routinely covered up their name badges to prevent being identified.

The injunction prohibited Metro—and all its contractors—from subjecting her to obscene or rude remarks in conversation; from restricting her choice of reading material; from harassing her in regard to the lawsuit; handling her wheelchair in anything other than a normal manner; from obscuring their identification; and required that they follow company policy in providing service and collecting fares, regardless of where she

chooses to go, or her lifestyle.

"She ought to be treated like anyone else," said Judge David West of the 269th District Court.

Tellison works for a United Way agency. Metro



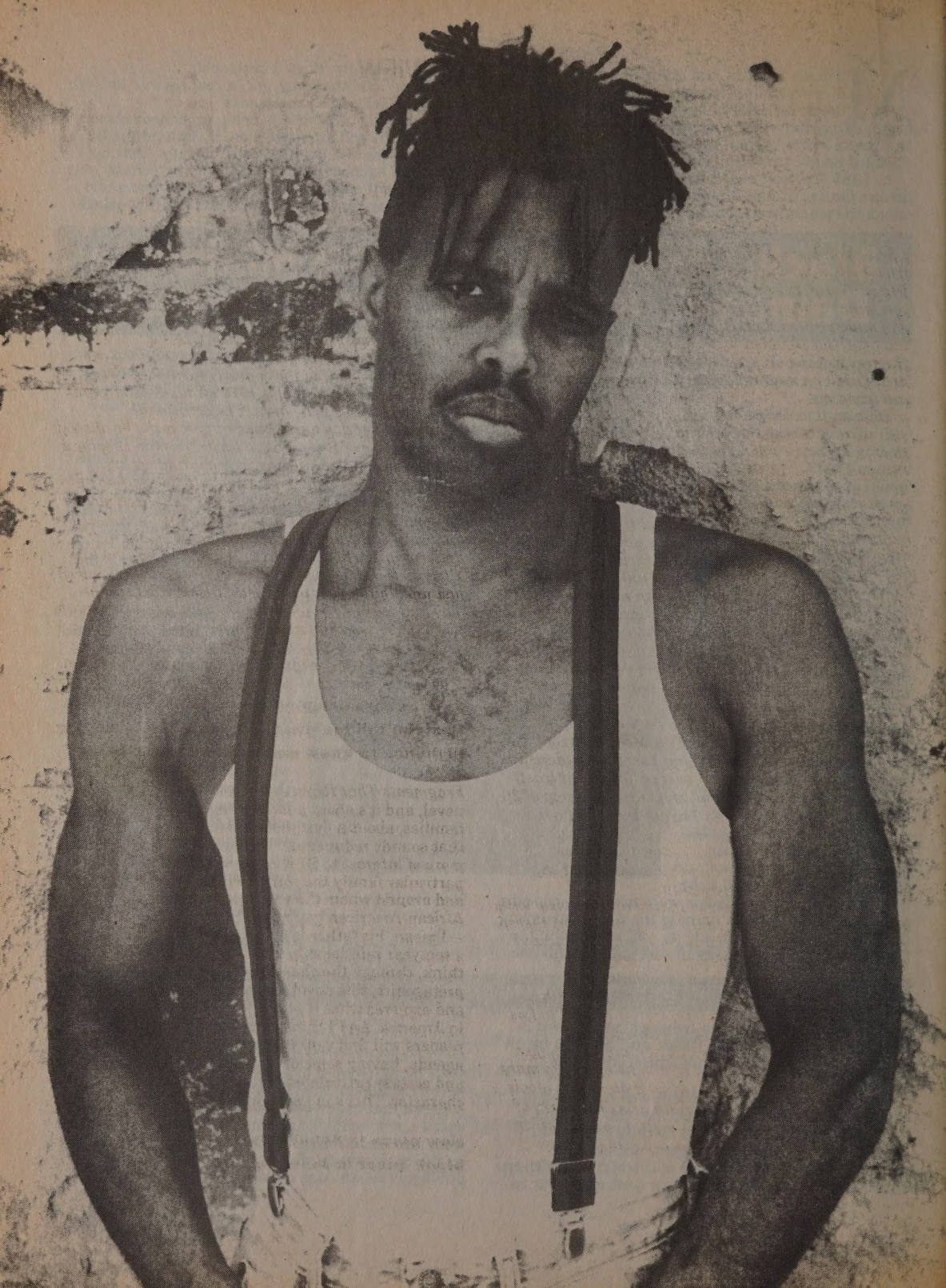
BY MARK HAILE

as discrimination based on being physically handicapped, which is illegal in Texas, and not as a result of her being gay, which is not a protected class in that state.

Frye retorted, that if her client was not handicapped, she "wouldn't have been in this position."

Judge Jack O'Neill ruled in favor of Tellison in June of 1988, after Metro lawyers argued they weren't liable for the behavior of the MetroLift drivers because the van service had been contracted out to

Transit continues to insist that no harassment ever took place. Metro's lawyer Dennis Gardner was quoted after the trial as having said, "It sounds to me we're being ordered to keep from doing what we weren't doing anyway. There's nothing inconsistent between that order and our customary policy, so I would say it will have no impact." Metro attorneys were also unsuccessful in getting a gag order placed on the case, sought due to the substantial local publicity the suit was attracting.



THE BLK INTERVIEW

STEVEN CORBIN

by Larry Duplechan

I first became aware of Steven Corbin in 1989, when a friend recommended Corbin's first novel, *No Easy Place To Be*, in response to my oft-repeated complaint of the lamentable dearth of fiction by black gay male writers. Corbin's story of a close-knit, talented, but troubled black family set during the Harlem Renaissance, involved and moved me, and the dust jacket photograph of the handsome author intrigued me. At the same time, I simmered with professional jealousy over the novel's cross-over success (which success has eluded my own work) and Corbin's relative financial good fortune (I'd heard through the publishing grapevine that Corbin's advance for his first novel had been more than double what I'd received for my third).

I met Steven in November of 1990, when we both appeared on a panel of black male writers for the Los Angeles Afro-American Museum. Struck by his deep-chested, tight-T-shirted physique, 100-watt smile and wide-open personality, coupled with his professed admiration for my second novel, *Blackbird*, I found Steven Corbin impossible to dislike, his relative success notwithstanding. At the end of the panel, we exchanged telephone numbers and promised to keep in touch—a Los Angeles tradition—but, in another L.A. tradition, we didn't.

We crossed paths again nearly a year later, in October of 1991, at the Black Gay Men's Retreat sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. There, in an atmosphere of (for me, at least) unprecedented openness and sharing in a group of 30 black gay men, Steven and I again expressed our mutual admiration and our desire to pursue a friendship. We have since exchanged countless telephone answering machine messages, one L.A. version of pursuing a friendship.

When I heard BLK was planning an interview with Steven Corbin, I requested the assignment and Steven readily accepted. I found it encouraging that when I called Steven to set a date for the interview, we conversed for nearly an hour, just chatting.

Jersey City born, Steven ("That's Steven, with a VEE," he told me, never Steve) Corbin moved to Los Angeles in 1975 to attend USC's film school, intending to become a screen writer and film maker. The realization that the sort of film he longed to make would likely never be produced in Hollywood's movie industry, and his better-late-than never discovery of black novelists such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and especially James Baldwin, led him to fiction writing.

His first novel, *No Easy Place To Be* was published by Simon and Shuster, to critical acclaim and sufficient sales to make him a relative rarity—a novelist without a day job after only one novel. His second novel, *Fragments That Remain*, will be published this spring by London's GMP.

I interviewed Steven on a crisp, unusually clear Sunday afternoon, in the sparsely furnished living room of his home, half of a 1910 vintage house-cum-duplex in the Los Feliz area. The occasional tumbleweed of dog hair skittered across the hardwood floor, courtesy of Sebastian, a large German shepherd given to sniffing at my tape recorder and crotch. Steven sprawled in a large armchair, booted feet up on an ottoman, eyes at half mast, having been awake for some thirty straight hours due to a 10 p.m.-to-10 a.m. shift working the coat room at an all-night underwear party at the Probe. Notwithstanding his allegation that he looked "like shit," my subject looked just fine, thank you, in a sleepy, dishevelled sort of way and despite his weariness, proved more articulate and interesting than most mortals at their very best, gesturing expressively with his hands, often tugging at his headful of dreads while considering a question.

About your upcoming novel, *Fragments That Remain*: tell me what you want BLK's reading audience to know about this book.

Fragments That Remain is a complex and layered novel, and it's about a lot of things: it's about families, about a dysfunctional family (and I know that sounds redundant). But I think what would be more of interest to BLK readers is that, in this particular family the son who is the pivotal character and around whom the entire story is told, is an African-American gay man who, among other things—I mean, his father is dying—he's also coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white lover. So, I think, through the character of Schuyler, my protagonist, this novel, in part, examines and probes and explores what it means to grow up a black queer in America. And I think that's something BLK readers will find very relevant in terms of their own agenda, having some of our collective anguish and joy and ecstasy articulated through this particular character. That's in part what I was trying to do.

How close is Schuyler's experience as a black queer in America to yours?

Close in some ways and not so close in others. I think, in terms of experiencing racism, in all forms—in terms of growing up in a certain culture, and dealing with it also on a more painful level in the gay community, is an experience which is very similar to mine. So I know that I use a lot of my own reactions, experiences, contemplations, through this character.

Tell me about your experience of racism in the gay community.

Well, the gay community, as far as I see it, is sort of a microcosm of the larger society which has bred it. And I have dealt with a lot of pain in dealing with racism in the gay community, on many levels. On personal levels, in terms of dating white guys, dating non-black people in the gay community, and becoming aware of how some attitudes are still pretty...unsophisticated, for lack of a better word. For instance, some white guys that I have dated, a lot of white guys that I've met, especially in this town [Los Angeles], I've felt, in large part, were going out with me as a black man for all the wrong reasons. That's another one of the things I'm dealing with in *Fragments*. Not all the wrong reasons, but certainly some of those reasons.

What are some of the wrong reasons for dating a black man?

In terms of having their own stereotypical ideas about who black men are: their prowess, their virility, their backgrounds. Certain assumptions that are made about you because you are black—

Such as?

Well—and this really sounds far-fetched, but I've heard stuff like this: "I would imagine that you were raised without a father in the house, because most black women, statistically, raise their children that way, in a fatherless home." Stuff like that. Or, I had a white guy tell me once that he'd always thought that every black person, in terms of physical attraction, liked any white person they could get, because that was some kind of status symbol. Like, if you could attain *this*, then you're sort of special.

Do you think that particular stereotype is entirely unfounded?

No, it's not entirely unfounded. But, I think what's disturbing about it is to make the assumption which is based on a stereotype. And, ironically enough, my parents separated when I was about 11, so half of my life I was raised in a fatherless home. But still...

Some of the other racism we deal with in the gay community, that I especially experience—because I'm a political activist—is in terms of organizations. Again, under the larger umbrella of the gay

community, there is a lot of dissension. And a lot of it is racist. And you'll hear things go down in ACT-UP that are racist, in a very subtle way. Like, a black woman might get up and talk about AIDS in the black community. And, of course, blacks and Latinos are the people who are getting AIDS now, those numbers are soaring. Ten white guys get up and walk out of the meeting.

Meaning they just didn't give a fuck?

They didn't want to hear that. It's not their problem. Let those black people get their own shit together, that's not our concern.

Last week, we were voting on a demonstration which is coming up...which coincides with the week-end of Oakland [the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and the National Cultural Gathering and Retreat]. And so, people were making comments on the floor that the demonstration coincides with that, and maybe black people and other people of color would want to attend. And you could hear people in the room going [he heaves a big sigh, rolls his eyes upward]. That's racist to me.

Which is one of the reasons it's really important for me to be a member of something like ACT-UP, because it's important, I think for us to be visible in organizations such as ACT-UP. So there's that kind of racism.

There's the racism of quiet quotas. Blacks couldn't get into a club after a certain number were in. You got hassled, you got asked for two or three pieces of I.D. Look at our [gay] literature, look at our magazines, our newsletters. Who represents the gay community on the cover of *Edge* every time you look at it, or the cover of *Frontiers*. It's never us. And they call themselves, presumptuously enough, the nation's leading gay magazine. And that's an insult to us and lesbians, as well. They don't deal with any women's issues, they don't deal with any lesbian issues.

Frontiers, you're talking about?

Frontiers and *Edge*. *Frontiers*, for instance, will have Latino boys on the cover, but who knows they're Latino? They're the most Caucasoid looking, non-threatening, non-swarthy Latino men they could find. And there's something wrong with that.

My brother, who is not gay, but is, obviously, black, once said something to me that's always stuck with me. He said he has trouble dealing with most white men, because white men act as if the world belongs to them.

Absolutely.

And I pointed out to him that, in fact, it does, on a lot of levels. And since, as you've said,

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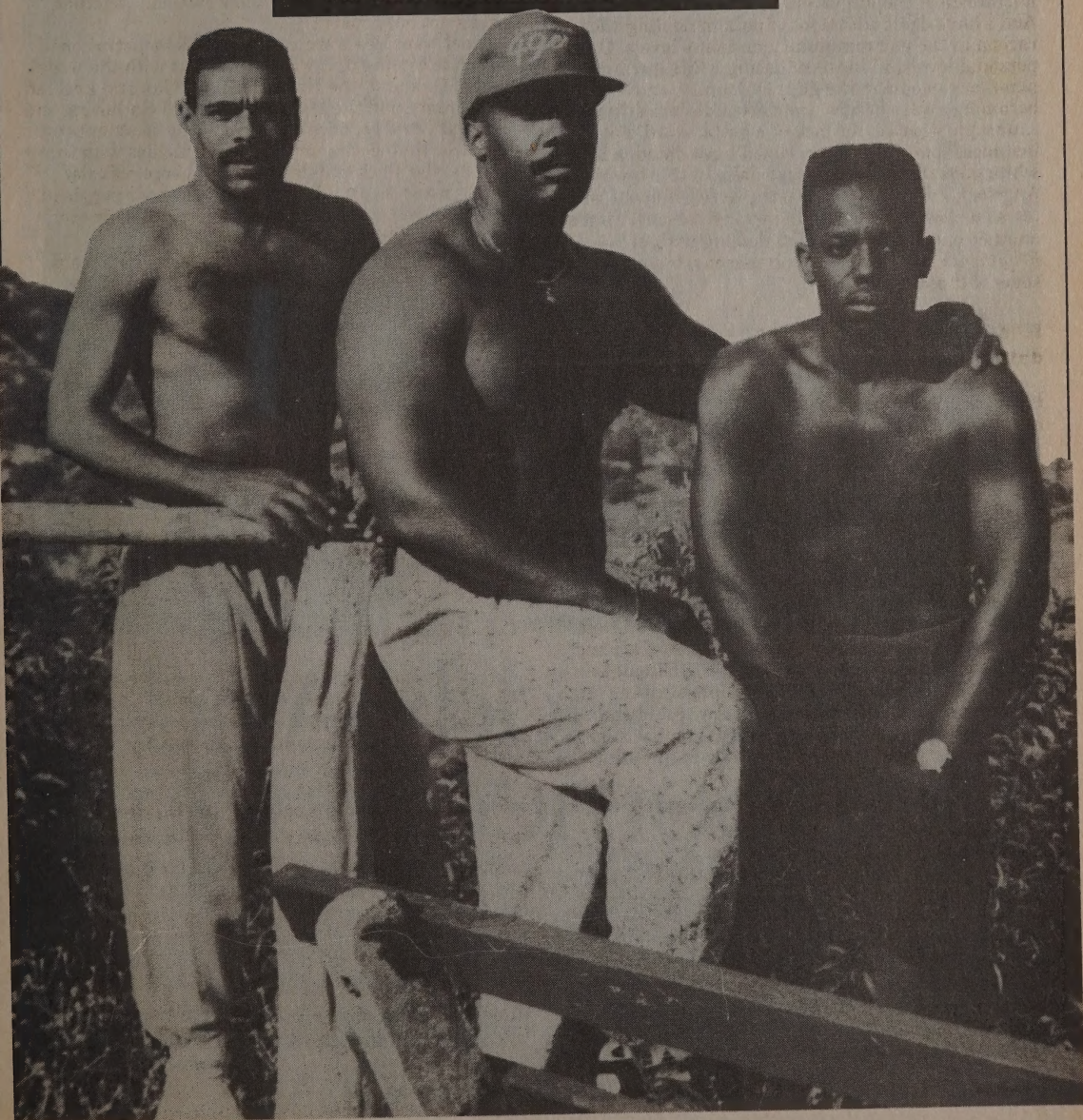




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the gay community is a microcosm of the community at large, what do you see as our plan of action as people of color, as women, as women of color, as anyone who's not white, male, hung, good looking and built, in what is basically a subculture that is created by, for and about white men?

In terms of remedying that? I think we need a little bit of sharing. We just have to recognize and acknowledge that there are other gay people in the gay community aside from white men. And be inclusive of everybody of color and women, who are substantial people, who are making contributions toward the same cause, the same goal.

One of the things that really struck me when I came to L.A. from New York was how segregated the gay community was out here. In New York, everyone partied together. Little did I know that that was going to be the pattern for what I'd see later on, politically and socially and so forth. So I think one of the ways in which we can remedy this is to allow women and so-called minorities to be more represented in the gay community overall. There's responsibility on both parts, but especially on the part of white men, because they are the ones who are the power structure.

So how do we get the white boys to let us play in what is basically their yard?

I don't know how we get to do that. I kind of know what we need to do, but how we're going to arrive at that is really sort of beyond me. Especially in regards to white men. They don't give up nothin'.

Historically.

Historically. They ain't give up shit! And everything you get you have to fight for. And that's a really good question. Because really, what we're trying to say to them is—well, let's take just one little slice of it: the cover of *Frontiers*, and say, "How about you white boys giving the cover, at least half the year to men of color, and women." How about the movers and shakers in this community who happen to be lesbians? Some of the most impressive people in ACT-UP are women. And so, I would like to see more of that. I don't know that I really have the answers. But they have to relinquish a little bit of the power, and share that, and let the voices of people of color come through.

Just to play devil's advocate a bit here, why should they? Or rather, why would they?

I don't think they would. Why should they is another question. We know why they should, but why would they, is almost rhetorical.

Because the fact is, as I've said, the world does belong to those white guys, and since they're gay white guys, and so in a position where they can't be on top of the heap in the larger society—

They'll rule the smaller fish bowl. That's what AB-101 was all about. That's what the whole gay movement was all about for me. White guys were saying, "I've grown up white and male in America. And you're gonna discriminate against me because of my sexuality?" Because it's just unheard of to deny them anything.

Because they're raised to be king of the hill and suddenly, they're being treated like niggers.

Exactly. "We're not going to be the niggers" is what they're saying. And they don't really look to recruit other people. You go to these demonstrations, everybody's white, for the most part.

Do you think that's by design?

I think it's just sub-consciously, maybe consciously exclusionary. It's like, "We can do this ourselves. We don't care to have your input." And even if that's not the message that's really being transmitted, it's the one that's being interpreted. So I'm not trying to just dump it all on them; but I think that's how a lot of black people feel.

How did you go from the USC film school, intending to be a screen writer, to becoming a novelist?

I had been so entrenched in my [film] education, I wasn't given the opportunity to read any real literature. So I started reading all this fiction, and specifically black fiction. I had never read *Native Son*, I'd never read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. I'd talked to white kids at USC who had read that in high school. I'd never read James Baldwin's *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

That amazes me.

It's amazing to me, too. What happened was, I was reading literature generally, and concentrating on black literature...and the more I was reading, the more I understood, or at least thought, that I could possibly do this. Write novels. It seemed an attractive art form. You can kind of be an artist. Then, something profound happened. I don't say that to sound melodramatic, but it really was profound: I read James Baldwin's *Just Above My Head*. My favorite Baldwin novel.

Mine, too.

I'm glad you share that with me. And then I said, God damn! And I worked my way back: *Giovanni's Room*, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And I thought, This man is a black queer, and he's saying "I'm a black queer, and these are my stories and fuck you!" And I thought, that speaks to my anger, speaks to my rage, as both a black and queer man. And he's getting away with that! This man has published how many fuckin' novels and plays and essays. And I said, Hmmm. When I was reading Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Richard Wright and all those other greats, those works said to me, "You can do this." Baldwin's work said, "You *must* do this."

So it would be safe to say that Baldwin is a hero of yours.

Oh, absolutely. I adore him, and adore his work.

Do we have a James Baldwin now?

No.

Are you hoping to be that?

You know, to say that I hope to be that would be really presumptuous on my part. Because I don't really think there will be another Baldwin.

Really?

No, because I'm thinking of the whole, total man. The novelist, the playwright—not just the prolificacy, but

the different forms he worked in as a writer—essays, and really top-notch in everything he did. Here's a man who's written in all these different forms. Then, also, had his own political activist agenda. And what makes him even more unique is that he was caught up in a time, during the 60's, when his career was sort of parallel to what was happening in the civil rights movement. And he became a voice for black people, in many ways. Our shit was articulated through his work. Which is not to say that he was *the* spokesman for us, but he was certainly one of the most visible and the most heard.

If I could be, an eighth of what Baldwin was... because to me he is so mythical in his proportions. He was certainly the best black writer America ever produced. Which is interesting, because he and Langston Hughes are the two greatest black writers and they were both queers. I find that very interesting, but no surprise.

I would hope to have a career as prolific as his. And that's really all I can say about that because I don't think I could ever be...[shrugs]

Have you ever considered going back to film, becoming a screenwriter or film maker.

No, but anything's possible. I never rule anything out. But I'm very concentrated on my work as a fiction writer. I think I'm a writer of some talent; I think I'm a good writer; I think I fail; I think I pass sometimes. But I would someday like to be a great writer, if that's possible. But I know it's going to take everything I've got to do that. So who knows what could happen later on? But it would have to be something that really speaks to me, here [points to his heart]. Like with Madonna doing [a film of] *Giovanni's Room* —

Really? I hadn't heard that.

She talked about it in the *Advocate*. And she was talking about the fact that they hadn't hired any writers. Now, something like that, I would *love* to do. I would love to work with someone else on something like that.

One last little Baldwin thing: you wrote in the *Advocate* something to the effect that American society only allows one prominent black novelist per generation. You've already said you don't think we've got a Baldwin now. Do you see anyone as being the black male writer of our generation; and if so, who might that be?

No, I don't think we have one. And that was part of what I was saying in that article in the *Advocate*.



That, first of all, it's insulting in and of itself to allow us *one*, as it were.

Do we even have our one?

No, we don't even have that *one*. What's even more insulting is that Baldwin's place hasn't even been filled. This man died in 1987. James Baldwin's been dead four years. Now, what has happened since then is that Charles Johnson went on to win the National Book Award for *Middle Passage*. And he's the first black man to win it since Ralph Ellison was awarded it for *Invisible Man*. James Baldwin was scheduled to win it the year after Ellison for *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And the judges said—

Not two in a row?

Not two in a row! But I must also say that I do see a burgeoning of black male writers out there, in unprecedented numbers. Queer and everything else. And I think that's true of black writers generally, but certainly for black men. So, I'll take what I can get, know what I mean? And whoever's going to even attempt to fill Baldwin's shoes, I hope that there's ten or 20. And perhaps we'll be among them, as queer, black male writers. You or me or Randall Kenan or Melvin Dixon, or whomever.

You have, in fact, finished yet another novel.

Yes.

And do we want to say anything about that?

Yeah, we can. This novel, my third novel, was the easiest novel to write. And it was the most difficult to write. It is the most autobiographical of all of my novels. The first novel is very, very minimally autobiographical. The second novel is maybe 40 percent autobiographical. The third novel is a lot more so, because it's an AIDS novel which chronicles the ill-fated relationship of two star-crossed lovers, who fall in love after sort of looking for each other for years. And then one of them gets sick. So, they have everything to live for, in terms of each other and their careers. And their lives are just blown out of the water by the fact that one of them gets AIDS. This story is based on my own experience with my late lover.

It was a novel I had to write. I couldn't write anything else until I wrote this. I recognize it as a brick wall I had to break through. It acted as a catharsis, as therapy, as a way of having a monologue about the most tragic thing ever to happen in my life. Nineteen-ninety-one was a year of mourning for me, for the most part; my lover died in October of 90, and from that point on, up until damn near three-quarters of 1991, I was in deep mourning. And in writing the novel, there were many scenes, as you can imagine, where I had to really call up a lot of stuff, where I would literally be there, sitting at my

desk, unable to see the words, because I was blinded by tears. I know that sounds melodramatic, but it's true. But when I finished, I realized that when I took it out of here [indicates his heart], and put it on some paper, that was like the beginning of the end of the horrible part of the healing. I grieved less after I wrote it. And it seemed like things were really beginning to lift, as I'd been wanting them to lift for months. I was tired of crying, I was tired of hurting, tired of missing him. I'm not used to being a perpetually depressed person, just wallowing in depression. I wasn't working, I wasn't writing, I wasn't teaching. I needed that time to heal myself. Lick my wounds.

So, I'm most proud of that novel—it's called *One Hundred Days From Now*, because—I call it a wartime novel. It has a lot of different levels of conflict and dynamic, because one of the lovers is black and one is Latino, and he was in the closet for 20 years and he's just coming out of his closetedness; and his family doesn't even know he's gay, and they're lying to his friends about his having leukemia. There's all these different things.

Do you have a publisher for it?

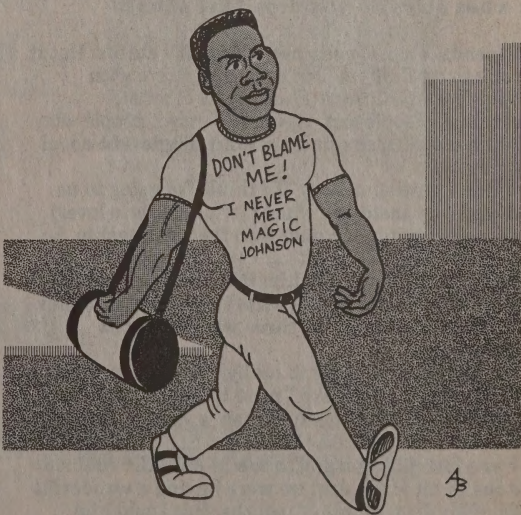
No, we're still shopping it.

On the general subject of AIDS: you're HIV positive.

Yes. How'd you know that?

You mentioned it at the Black Gay Men's Retreat.

I don't remember discussing my HIV status there.



You didn't discuss it; you sort of dropped it at one of the big pow-wow type gatherings, where one of the subjects was about romances between HIV positive and negative. What bearing does your HIV status have on your work: either what you write, or how fast you feel you have to write it or anything like that? I ask because, a couple of years back, Mark Thompson was telling me about the umpteen projects he was working on, all at once. And I said, Why are you doing all this at one time? And he said, I'm HIV positive, I don't have forever.

That's Paul Monette's thing, too. I don't know if that's my thing. I certainly hope to leave a good body of work, whenever I die, for whatever reason I die. But I really deal with my HIV status, for the most part, in a very—I have a life to live. I have a career. I have work to do. And I'm not saying that in the sense of "I have to get these books out now because next week I might be symptomatic," because I'm not symptomatic. I have high T-cells, I'm healthier than I've ever been. So I don't feel that same immediacy as, say, Paul Monette. Which is a big reason for his prolificacy. But for me, I don't really use that as an impetus to get all this work out all of a sudden.

I don't necessarily have to die from this—anything can happen. And I'm not even going to project that far into the future. I'm just going to take this a day at a time, live my life, try to find me a husband, settle down and have some kids, you know? And write my fuckin' books. And go about my business.

When you're seeing someone, romantically, at what point do you drop that shoe?

It depends. I'm not ashamed of my HIV status. But it is something that you don't run and share with people. Because I think it's an issue of trust, sometimes. People can get kind of weird, people who might have kids, say, and are kind of ignorant about the illness.

When I date somebody, if I think I'm going to be involved—for instance, when Carlos [his late lover] and I were dating, ten days into the relationship, he told me he was HIV positive. I was also positive at the time, but I didn't tell him then, because I didn't feel the need to. Because I wasn't even that *into* him. So I did tell him later on, three weeks into the relationship.

If I feel like I'm going to really, really be involved with somebody, I feel like I need to tell them within the first month. Especially if there's going to be sex involved.

I was just dating a guy, who's in ACT-UP. And we had really hit it off. And we were having a wonderful little affair for a couple of months. But I told him

about my HIV status about two weeks into it. And I was absolutely shattered. We were in the Beverly Center when I told him—we were going to a movie and we had time to kill. He just started crying. He'd told me he was an emotional person. But when he cried, it also told me how much he cared for me. Because, what the discussion was about was that he had basically decided in his mind that we were going to be boyfriends. So he was devastated. He's a foreigner, he's from India, he's been in this country three years. And despite his AIDS activism, he's AIDS-phobic. And was dealing with his fear on two major levels. Number one, the possibility of being infected himself. But more than that, losing me.

And that's why he couldn't allow himself to get involved. And it was not an unwise decision. I tried very hard not to be judgmental about the irrationality of his fear, especially as an AIDS activist. But I also understood. Because that is some pain I wouldn't wish on anybody.

Just another reality of your HIV life. Dating in the '90s.

On the subject of HIV in the Nineties, let's talk Magic Johnson for a moment, shall we?

Well, let me just say that I feel for Magic Johnson like I feel for anybody who's dealing with the virus. The way in which all this support has galvanized around the fact that he had been diagnosed is not his fault. He is a sports hero. He is a god by the definition of Western society. And we all know that they celebrate AIDS cases, more often than not, who are heterosexuals: the Kimberly Bergalis, the Ryan Whites. Now, that's a double-edged sword, because we do have a great deal of support, as I said, galvanizing around these issues, driving the point home a little bit more. But, it's also their way of saying, "That faggot disease has smeared, or tainted poor Kimberly Bergalis, poor Ryan White, poor Magic Johnson. Those fags, look what they did. Now their shit has spread to him, or her."

But the other side of that coin is, people smell that fuckin' coffee. And they realize, this is not, as we've been saying for ten fuckin' years, this is not a fag disease, Honey! A virus is a virus, okay?

So I had mixed feelings. On one hand, I thought: was just terrible to hear that about Magic Johnson. But incredibly courageous, and honest, for him to do what he did. Because he didn't have to do that. He could have kept it a totally private issue. And he could have decided he wasn't going to do shit about in terms of his political activism or getting involved he didn't have to do that. And he doesn't have to do any more or any less than anybody else because he's a public figure.

But what maddened me, of course, and angered me, and totally pissed me off, was how the world treated him, as if he was the first person to be diagnosed with HIV. Oh, poor Magic! And



20th ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY 29 **SADIE MAE HAWKINS DAY**
SATURDAY WITH MARRYN' SAM

MARCH 7 **MARDI GRAS**
SATURDAY PARTY & PARADE

MARCH 30 **DIVA'S BASH**
MONDAY ALL THE DIVA'S COME OUT TONIGHT

MARCH 31 **BUTCH BASH & KARAOKE PARTY**
TUESDAY ARE YOU BUTCH ENOUGH

APRIL 1 **TRASH DISCO B.V.D. FINALS**
WEDNESDAY WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR B.V.D.S

APRIL 2 **MR & MS CATCH ONE PAGEANT**
THURSDAY YOU PICK THE BEST OF OUR GUYS AND GALS

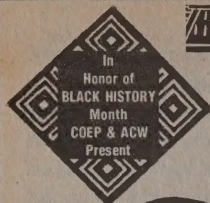
APRIL 3 **PARTY ANIMAL NIGHT**
FRIDAY COME STOMP & GET BUCK WILD ALL NIGHT

APRIL 4 **GUEST ARTIST NIGHT**
SATURDAY SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY...

APRIL 5 **ANNIVERSARY BALL**
SUNDAY GLITZ & GLAMOUR

MAY 22-25 **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**
FRI. SAT. SUN & MON CHILDREN'S PARTY WEEKEND

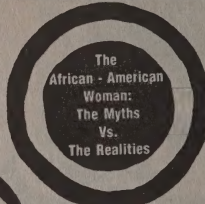
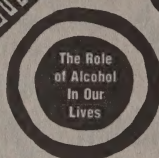
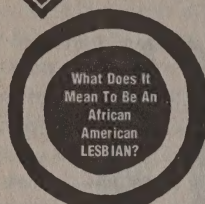
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Women's Calendar of Events for FEBRUARY

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD & THE CENTER'S WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT	THE CENTER L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	SAVE THE DATE: 5th Annual June Swoon June 14th 3 - 6 pm		For More Information Call COEP (213) 957 - 3081		"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 1972N Nordoff (NW corner of Corbin) Northridge Upstairs In World of Dance
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	NEW RAP GROUP!! "Over 35" GLCSC 1213 N. Highland # 108 7:30 - 9 pm	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Writing About Love Terry Wolverton 7 - 9 pm "About Lesbians of Color & Their Lesbian Friends" 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 Santa Monica Bl.	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Coming Out" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW 1147 S. Alvarado \$20 for 4 - week series	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 1972N Nordoff
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "For Women of Color Only" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Singles" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbie Room	Valentine Women's Dinner & Dance "Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 1972N Nordoff
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Ski Trip To Mountain High Pre-register 213-957-3081 \$48 7 am CENTER CLOSED No Over 35 Rap	Queer Rites: 8 - week writing workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Open Topic Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender \$50 Forgiveness: Opening Doors For A New Future Norma Cappello, MFCC 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	"Relationships" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW - 1147 S. Alvarado Must Pre-Register \$20 for 4 - week series	"Out On Tuesday" Television Series 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 1972N Nordoff
Lesbian Forum Black Lesbians in Politics A New Force 11 am - 2 pm Black History & Awards Program 7 - 10 pm Lesbian Mothers & Their Children 12 - 2 pm	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	"Wellness Project: Eroticizing Safer Sex For Black Lesbians Mary Henderson 7 - 9 pm Queer Rites Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "Racism" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm	"Wellness Project: Feminist Perspectives On Addictions Nan Van Den Bergh, PhD 7:30 - 9 pm Ravenous Readers "The Bluest Eye" 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	Communication With Your Partner Dr. Louise Mebane Dr. Lynne Peterson 7 - 9:30 pm "Dating Skills" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbie Room	"Women In Love" Film & Discussion Dr. Sylvia Rhue 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 1972N Nordoff
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT: 7051 SANTA MONICA BL. 213 • 957 • 3081

muthafuckahs have been dying for ten years and where the fuck were you people!

My third novel, *One Hundred Days From Now*, I'm dedicating it to everybody I've known personally who has died of AIDS. And the list is ever growing. One week alone, I had to add three names to the dedication page. Three names! So, we're in this together. And it's scary, the level of ignorance, because that's what's going to abet the disease, help it spread.

Do you think Magic Johnson is going to do anybody any good?

I think yes, in some ways. And it may not be the hands-on, concrete results of what organizations are doing or what President Bush might be doing now, or health organizations. One of the most important things that Magic Johnson's diagnosis is doing, I feel, is that it is educating people. It is really waking people up. It's almost as if he were a divinely chosen person, picked to be the next example of who AIDS can happen to. Not just Rock Hudson, because Magic Johnson is above and beyond that in terms of his appeal and his popularity. So I think that when you hear Rev. Carl Bean talking about how the phone rang off the hook at the Minority AIDS Project the day after the announcement, that is sending out a very important, loudly-resounding message that straight people think they can't get it. They don't think they have to use condoms. And now Magic Johnson has it, and so now it's real. I think that's what's really important. Because it's ignorance, and denial, and finger-pointing that act as a petri dish for a virus like HIV. There's no disease like the disease of fear, and prejudice.

What are you writing now? Novel four?

No, I haven't started it yet. But after I finished the third novel, I wrote a couple of short stories, one of which I sent to Terry Wolverton for her upcoming anthology, *Still Indivisible*. And I wrote, I think, the best short story I've ever written. I wrote a story about my father, called *My Father's Son*, and it's unequivocally my favorite short story that I have.

This is fiction?

All I write is fiction. So that's what I've been working on recently. So probably the next project I tackle will be the fourth novel. I was hoping to be in London and writing it there, you know, that whole romantic notion of writing in a foreign country, *à la* Baldwin, *à la* Langston Hughes.

You really need Paris for that.

But London will do. See, the thing about London that's real desirable for me, is that my career is very

visible there. They published my first novel, they're publishing the second novel. I just had two short stories published there, one in November, one in December. So, I'm really visible there, in ways that I'm not here.

Any idea why that is?

It's the old, classic cliché, that so many African-Americans find fame in cultures outside their own, first. It's like a bandwagon mentality. America looked at how popular Jimi Hendrix had become in London, or how well Josephine Baker was doing in Paris, or Jody Watley in London, Terence Trent D'Arby, James Baldwin or Richard Wright in Paris; and then, they jump on the bandwagon, to take credit for that. The British bought my second novel like [snaps his fingers] that. A chapter was published in a magazine, an editor was on his way to work, reading the chapter, liked it; got to the office, called the magazine to see if I was being represented in the United Kingdom; they said yes; she forwarded the manuscript, and a month later, they made me an offer. That would never have happened in America. Not as a black, queer writer.

So, I'd like to write a project in another cultural setting. I'd like to do Paris, too; that's my first choice. I love Paris: it's my favorite European city, it's my second favorite city in the world I've seen so far, the first being New York. But in London, I have the audience, I have the readership. It just might be the place for me to be.

What are you reading now?

I'm reading short stories. I'm reading the anthology that just published me in Great Britain. It's a GMP anthology, called *More Like Mines*. And then there's a literary journal that I was published in, called *Passport*. And both of them are samplings of international writers. And I'm also reading *Men on Men II*. To read an international representation of writers is pretty exciting and stimulating. You see all the different cultural styles, the way different writers work. And also, I like to see what company I'm in.

For instance, some of the stuff in *More Like Mines* is really good. Do you know who Lev Raphael is?

Certainly.

He has a story in there called "Beth Homo." Larry, this story is so wonderful to me. And I just think... Wow. And they published my story? Anyway, that's what I'm reading now.

Unlike the general public, I happen to know that you have a beautiful singing voice, because you sang a capella, and beautifully, for the talent show at the Black Gay Men's

Retreat. And I'm curious, had you ever considered a career as a singer?

Yes. That's what I thought I was going to do. We share that, although you actually pursued it, but I didn't. I was a closet singer. A shower singer. The only public singing I ever participated in was in church choirs and school choirs. I was always made a soloist, and people always said, "Oh, you have a nice voice," and I love music. But it was never much more than that. But I think, because of my passion for music, my love for music, I kind of (in a passive way) thought, "That's what I'll pursue, I'll be a singer." And I'm still a frustrated singer. I would love to be able to sing, to be able to do them both.

In terms of romantic or sexual relationships, do you have any sort of racial agenda? Do you go out looking for white men, or black men? Do you have a preference?

No. I'm one of those rare people who have no racial preferences. I don't have types. My only type is good looking, and *about* something, working toward something, doing something with your life. In regard to black men in Los Angeles, I can't get *arrested* by one.

[big laugh] That was a laugh of recognition, because I feel the same way.

I mean it. I can't get *arrested* by black men. And I say specifically Los Angeles, because here, black men want the guy on the cover of *Frontiers*. I've had two relationships in my life. One man, I lived with for six

years. He was Argentine. And my second lover, the one who died, was Mexican. From Mexico City. A self-made millionaire. Indisputably one of the most brilliant people I had ever met in my life. Rich, beautiful, knowledgeable, all those things. His mother was an Anglo woman from the mid-West, who went on vacation to Mexico, and met his father there. And when I met him, I thought he was white, because he was sandy-haired and had beautiful blue eyes. And I noticed a little Spanish lilt to his speech, which was really sexy. And he told me his name was Carlos, and I thought, what is somebody as Anglo as you doing with a name like Carlos? And the guy I mentioned before, in ACT-UP, he's Indian, from Bombay.

I don't care, Larry. I get so annoyed with all these narrowly defined requirements that people want from their men. And they say, Well, you like what you like. But it's not that simple. You like what you're *told* to like. When you see that issue of *Edge*, when you see that issue of *Frontiers*, that is sending out a subliminal message that *this* is what's hot. This is the superior beauty example. You should want *this*. And many people fall for that, unquestioningly.

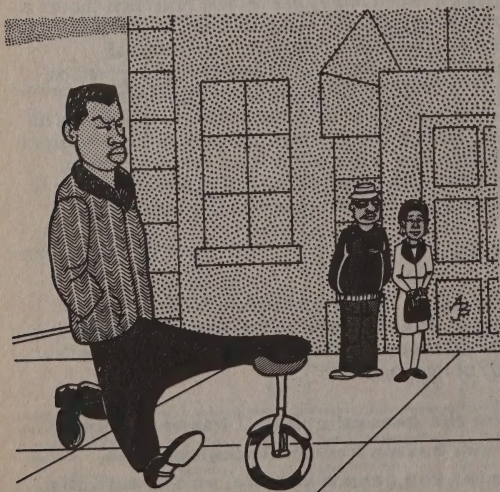
I just kind of like *men*. And I also think you can be black and be with somebody white, as long as you know who you are, and you have a point of reference about yourself—culturally, racially, historically—know where you're from. And I don't try to pass over to the other side, where the other racially different partner is. Love is where you find it, it really is. And this world is so bereft of love, of good candidates. I don't even want to get into the whole *men* thing.

The "whole men thing"?

I have this ongoing love/hate thing with men.

Well, let's talk about that for a little bit.

Okay. I think so many men—especially queer men—are not equipped to be loved, to commit. All those phobias we hear about heterosexuals all the time—it's true of gay men, too. And I can be as much of a slut as anyone, if that's what I choose to do. But I'm much more focused on being involved with someone, sharing my life with someone, building something with someone. And there are a lot of men out there who claim they want a boyfriend, they want to be committed, but they really don't. And that disturbs me. I don't think there's anything wrong with having as part of the gay subculture the leaning toward promiscuity. That's fine. And I'm not trying to be judgmental about any of that. But one of the things we don't emphasize in the gay community is relationships. We don't promote that. We don't talk about that. Maybe we see it as an imitation of what middle-class heterosexual life is, I don't really know where that's coming from. But we just don't seem to have a balance. I think there's something to be said for couples who are together for years and years. How



Be careful what you wish for. You just may get it.

come we don't celebrate that? How come we don't talk about that? It's like something that's in the closet.

And then, some queer men will get upset when we're portrayed as these sexual beings. Well, who can you blame the image [on], because that's the way we behave, the way we've structured our values. And in a way, I love the whole sexiness and decadence and gorgeous men—I love all of that. But, there is something else to us. We're more than just sexual beings.

I think there's a little too much emphasis on debauchery, on the sexual entity in our culture. I just wish there was more of a balance.

What I'd like to see a little more of, is that sense of family we have in the gay community. And that's on several levels. We have a sense of family in that, no matter how close we are to our own families—and I'm very close to my family, my family is very gay-friendly, everybody in my fuckin' life knows I'm a fag—and still, it's not the same thing as being at a retreat with 29 other black gay men, or being with gay friends on Christmas Eve. This sense of family that we have, whether that be a nuclear family like you and Greg, or the extended family where you have friends who come together because we totally understand each other. And no matter how gay-friendly our biological families are, they don't understand you in some ways that I understand you, by virtue of the fact that we're both queer men. And I'd like to see more emphasis on that.

Do you see that happening in the community?

I think so, but I think it's very minimal. And I think we're overloaded and overwhelmed with the other, which is the sexual thing, the promiscuity, the live-for-today attitude.

I certainly try to do what I can through my work. Having written *One Hundred Days From Now*, I've written two stories about a relationship between two men who obviously have some sense of family among themselves. And in *Fragments That Remain*, as I said, although Schuyler is coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white guy, they're still trying to work it out, to find some way to be together. Which is also part of the story—will they be able to do it.

A small semantic issue: you seem to use the words "gay" and "queer" pretty much interchangeably. Are they interchangeable for you?

Well, you know, I find that lately—especially the more I become entrenched in my political activism; where the word "queer" is thrown around a lot—that word has made its way into my vocabulary, somehow. And I really like defining myself as queer.

It's like—you didn't tell me, I told you. If you want me to be your queer, I'll be your queer. You want me to be your nigger, I'll be your nigger. And it's not from a place of hostility; it's just—I'll be a queer, if that's the way in which you can listen to me, or hear me, or address me, or identify me. In a way that you feel comfortable. And I'm giving it right back to you—yeah, I'm a queer. What about it? To me, it's a self-empowerment thing. And I find I'm using it more than "gay." And, for the sake of argument, I guess they are interchangeable. Except I think that "queer," at least in my mind, denotes an edge of radicalism. An edge of visibility. It says, I'm not going to be quiet. Maybe gay people will be quiet. Queers aren't quiet.

Is that because the word "queer" is so closely associated with Queer Nation, who are not a quiet bunch?

I think even before Queer Nation—and I'm sure that's why they use that term, because that particular identification was becoming more widely used. It was like turning the tables. We never used to like being called queer or faggot. And I refer to myself on many occasions as a faggot, as queer; not meaning to be disparaging to myself, at all. So, I think it was even there before Queer Nation got it. And then they took it and put it out there. And now everybody relates it to them, which is fine. I thought it was great, when I heard about this organization called Queer Nation. "I'm here, I'm queer and fuck you!" I like that kind of shit. That kind of stuff speaks to me, because that's what it's gonna take. You never make any kind of gains, socially, politically, economically, by being nice. We all know that. Being this nice little



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EXT. 14

gay boy, this nice little proper Negro, like we were raised to be. Non-threatening, non-confrontational. So the word "queer" really speaks to that.

When did you grow your dreadlocks, and why?

I started them in May of 1988, so I've had them nearly four years. In a world, in a culture, in a city where we're still dealing with racial self-hatred and black people who don't love themselves; in the face of Jheri-curls and hair weaves; I felt compelled, literally, to make a statement about my ethnicity. It was a way of asserting my ethnicity. I was raised by two parents who taught us never to alter anything of your natural make-up; i.e., putting chemicals in your hair. When I was growing up, it was the "process." The process segued into the Jheri-curl. And, especially in Los Angeles, the Image Capital. And there are so many black people in this town, especially in the gay community, again—who are trying to be replicas of white America in the way they wear their hair. And I don't really have a problem with that, *per se*, as much as I have a problem with the changes we put ourselves through to alter ourselves.

I wish I could see more ethnic looking women in L.A. In New York, you see a lot of black women who look black. They celebrate their blackness. They wear hair-do's like you've never seen before, that just come out of a black woman's creativity.

As to my dreadlocks, I remember wanting to have them. And I always had these jobs, like you, working in law firms. And of course, you can't wear them there. And there I was, I'd sold *No Easy Place To Be*, I'm living on this little money, I'm a full-time writer and—oh! I can have dreadlocks now! In London, you see more people with dreadlocks than here. They're also much more commonplace in New York, on the East Coast.

So, that's where the dreadlocks come from. I just feel like sometimes I have to assert myself as an African-American queer; trying to remain visible; trying to get through life like anybody else, without any compromise about who I am and what I look like. Without someone dictating to me what my aesthetic should be, what my agenda should be, what my program should be, who I should be sleeping with. I have to do that for myself.

On the subject of chemical and surgical alteration, the sight of Michael Jackson must make you run screaming.

Yes, he does. What are black kids thinking when they see him?

I can't imagine. I literally can't imagine.

I can't, either. And there must be some white kids—and maybe some black kids, too—who don't have any

prior point of reference about Michael Jackson, before the surgeries. They may not even know if he's black or white. I can just see white kids asking their parents, Is he white, Mommy? Because white people tend to be really naive about those things. If we have what they think are Caucasoid features and lighter skin complexions, it's like—Oh, you couldn't possibly be totally black, because you're too beautiful and your hair is too straight or wavy or whatever. And it's the same kind of dynamic with this Michael Jackson thing. And what could be more ironic than "It doesn't matter if you're black or white," when he's trying to be as white as possible? And I just think it's very sad. There's a part of me that's angry about it, but I think I'm much more sad about it than angry. Because this guy is just so lost. And his self-hatred yells just a little bit louder each time he releases an album. The nose has disappeared, the lips have disappeared, the skin is lighter, the hair is straighter. Just look at his videos chronologically.

And I'm so concerned about what message black kids are getting. If they want to be like Michael Jackson. And I think Michael Jackson is a wonderful role model for children, generally, and certainly for black children, I really do. And I was really upset when Farakhan was calling him "sissyish" or whatever. But in that one way, I find him disturbing, because we've had enough self-hatred. I am tired of self-hatred among black people. I am tired of self-hatred among queers. And we just have to get to a place where we can say this is who we are, this is what we have to work with, and this is okay. And it's as good as anybody else's.

So, what color of toilet paper do you use?

Whatever's available. Usually white.



Future GBM.

Oprah Look-alike

BY MARK HAILE



When the *Ladies' Home Journal* held their look-alike contest, Jecquin Stitt's supervisor, Beverly Keller, encouraged Jecquin wholeheartedly to enter. It didn't surprise anyone either that the Flint, Mich. native won the contest, as Stitt was a perfect double for Oprah Winfrey.

"I never intended to imitate her," Stitt told BLK, "I just happened to be looking like her..." The resemblance was stunning enough to start a second career for Stitt, currently employed by the city's Water Department.

For the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the look-alike contest and their winner turned into a quandary when they discovered that Jecquin Stitt, 33,

was actually a man.

Jecquin (pronounced "Jeh-KEEN") never actually mis-identified himself to *LHJ*. "I'm not lying to the public," he told TV station WJRT. "You know, because I *am* going through some changes." Stitt told BLK that the change should be completed by April. That will allow plenty of time for her to prepare for a June wedding with her fiancé, rap artist William Booker.

The first inclination on the part of *LHJ* was to disqualify Stitt, but when lawyers advised that it might pave the way for a sex discrimination case, they shrugged their shoulders and let the show go on as planned.

The prizes included a

complete studio makeover, a photo session and an appearance on *Oprah* with the star herself.

Although Oprah's staff was "really nice," Stitt noted that the appearance was brief, without a chance to even talk with Oprah after the taping. "A few of them told me they wish Oprah was as nice as I was," Stitt told BLK.

The publicity for Stitt from appearing on *Oprah* would be hard to duplicate, but it was far from being her first time as a winner. Since taking first place as Queen of the Ball in 1983, Stitt has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in Flint, and has taken the Miss Copa title as well.

The positive response

to her appearance as Oprah convinced Stitt to get back before the lights, and resulted in her being in constant demand for performances. Her summer schedule has her jumping across the Great Lakes states into Canada, and from Flint to Saginaw to Ann Arbor as well as to clubs from Ohio to Kansas.

Stitt has far more in her show than just Oprah. She also gives her audiences a heavy dose of Patti Labelle, Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Holliday and some comedy along with song and dance.

Stitt has been able to make time to perform for local benefits, making a priority of helping out groups like Agape, a local AIDS service organization.

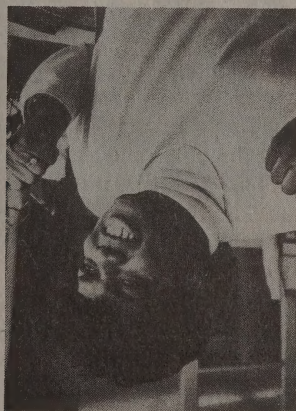
Throughout the whirlwind of publicity, which on top of the *Oprah* appearance has included interviews with *People*, *Time*, *Jet*, *Entertainment Tonight*, CNN, and a visit on *To Tell the Truth*, Stitt has had 100 percent support from her family, who help shield her when she needs her privacy.

"They think it's a gas," said Stitt. "They're getting used to this attention. They protect me." Theirs is a pretty normal family, Stitt told BLK, that stays out of the limelight for the most part.

Will success change Jecquin—more than the changes she's going through? No, say her co-workers and family, who also have had to adjust to the swarm of publicity they are responsible

in part for starting. Her relatively normal day job and home life has helped Stitt plan her career moves with a level head. She and her fiancé have been supportive of each other's careers, but Stitt doubts, smiling, that she will be in her fiancé's first video, even though they both independently are looking at recording and doing television. Her own first video is now in post-production.

Although she has an agent now handling bookings for her and her dance troupe and has also started her own production company, Stitt is intent on staying true to herself—the self that *happens* to look like Oprah. She reminded BLK, "But there's a lot more to me than that!"



STITT PHOTO BY KENT C. MILLER

Starts 2nd Career

JOE PRESSLEY

By Eric K. Washington

THE organization has done so much for me," Joe Pressley says of the five year old Gay Men of African Descent, better known as GMAD. Pressley was elected in

the spring to head the group, but that's not what he means. He easily sees himself as a living testament to GMAD's effectiveness as a support group, and who would be inclined to disagree? After all, this new executive director has only been out for two years. Pressley hastens to credit GMAD for his rapid evolution as he recalls his bashful debut two years ago at one of the group's anniversary picnics in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

"I was very closeted," Pressley says with an ironic expression. **"I was on my bike and I rode around the park four times until a good friend of mine saw me and said, 'Come on over, come on over! We've been watching you riding around the park all this time.'"** Pressley's 18-speed, like a faithful pet, is steadied by a hand on its saddle while its owner reminisces. **"Ever since that time,"** he confesses, **"I can't keep away."**

Pressley's friends in the organization sometimes chide him, he says, for making GMAD his whole life. It isn't quite. By day the single (and, he notes, eligible) 27-year-old is a technical writer

for computer software, a digression from his major at Syracuse University in African-American studies. Although he works in what he calls a supportive environment, he expresses a desire to eventually **"move out of corporate**

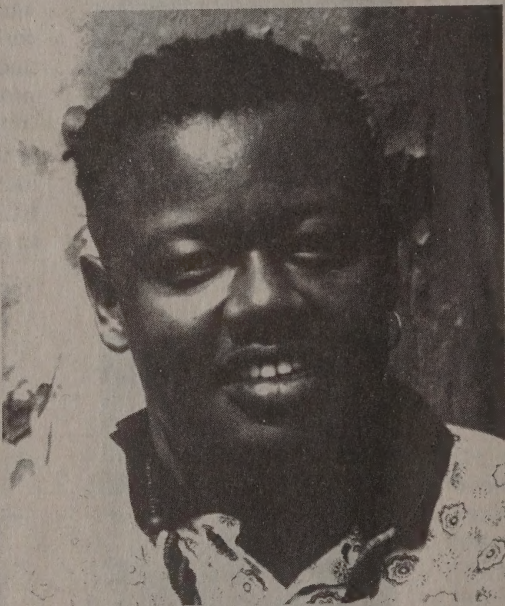
America" to do community-based work.

As initiative in that direction, GMAD is a major step. The organization boasts a roster of about 300 members, a mailing list of about 1200, **"mostly based in New York,"** says Pressley, noting that the group draws from across the country and the Caribbean. **"There's been talk of putting together other chapters,"** he adds, **"but right now we're trying to strengthen our organization capacity here in New York."**

As GMAD's executive director Pressley will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization whose mission, he says, is to provide support for men of color of the African diaspora, to politicize people and to promote the well-being of the overall lesbian and gay community. He will also be charged with preparing the budget, co-ordinating and overseeing the Friday membership meeting and working with the board of directors to set policy.

At the time of our talk, Pressley and GMAD were making plans for African-American Day. **"What**

NEAL COLLINS



we want to do this year is make it an all-day event," he says, noting plans for a morning brunch to precede the annual parade through Harlem. **"In the afternoon there's a reception for GMADers who march at Home to Harlem,"** he adds, speaking of the bookstore on 125th Street that is Harlem's main commercial thoroughfare.

One of Pressley's long-range goals for GMAD is to acquire more autonomous working space for the organization. At present the group sublets a portion of office space from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and holds its weekly meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

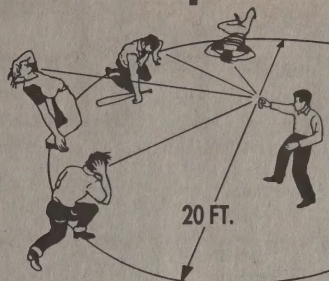
"I'd like to see us have more meetings outside the Center," he says. **"While I think it's important that we realize we have a place in the Center, I think it's important that we start having meetings and doing programs in our respective communities ...I'd like to see us own our own property where we can actually conduct our administrative activities as well as hold our programs and our general meetings. Hopefully in a place like Harlem or in Bed Stuy."**

One goal that Pressley hopes to achieve during his tenure is approval is Federal 501c(3) status, the income tax code under which tax-exempt groups are filed.

Pressley expresses another pressing desire he has for the group: He'd like for GMAD to establish itself more strongly as a support lender to some of the existing AIDS-related direct-service organizations for communities of color. Groups such as the Minority Task Force on AIDS, for example. **"Hopefully, not long-range,"** he says, shuddering at the given that AIDS may well remain a long-term crisis. **"I guess, immediately, for over the next couple of years, I'd like to see us giving them (MTFA) our manpower, pulling from our membership, doing hospital visitations and home care, things like that."**

Things like that, one realizes, would hardly have been uttered by this man two years ago. Now, as Joe Pressley remounts his bike and the spokes of the wheels begin to flutter like a loom, he has lost the timid air of someone skirting an uncertain path. He now appears to be spinning that path for others to follow.

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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

PHYLLIS HYMAN

"Prime Of My Life"
(Philadelphia International)

It has been five years since her last album, *Living All Alone*, but for Phyllis Hyman this new release reflects "the spiritual, intellectual and creative growth I've been experiencing." Although her first record was released in 1977 on Buddah Records, it was her five year period with Arista Records in which she released such unforgettable hits as "Somewhere In My Lifetime," "You Know How To Love Me," and my personal favorite (which I still listen to today) "The Answer Is You." During this same time she also established a large and loyal fan base.

Long a member of an elite circle of mellow, sophisticated song stylists, Phyllis has consistently been a much-sought-after live performer. Approaching her 15th year as a recording artist, Hyman is very much in touch with the person inside the star. "I feel that I'm more secure and comfortable with myself now," she says. "I've learned to appreciate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of my voice in a way that I hadn't done in the past."

Although every song in this collection is a winner, there are some stand-outs. "When I Give My Love (This Time)" exposes Hyman's voice at its sensual best, and is truly one of her greatest ballads. She echoes feelings of passion on the intensely romantic "Meet Me On The Moon." Hyman also comes correct (and



CAROL FRIEDMAN

contemporary) with the album's slammin' first single, "Don't Wanna Change The World." Does anyone have the phone numbers of any of the dancers in the video?

ULTRA NATE

"Blue Lights in the Basement"
(Eternal/Warner Bros)

As a dance album, this project definitely works: clubgoers will love the house beats and bass-heavy rhythms, courtesy of album producers the Basement Boys. As a vocalist, however, Ultra Nate (pronounced nah-TAY) comes up short.

The Baltimore-based Basement Boys (Thomas Davis, Jay Steinhour and Teddy Douglas) have quickly become club music's producers/remixers-of-the-moment, and with good reason. The trio started as DJ's who were heavy into Baltimore's underground

dance scene: these guys know a slammin' beat when they hear one. The threesome was also behind the best-selling debut album by Crystal ("La-de-di, La-de-da") Waters - another non-singing diva.

Nate grew up singing in the church, but the power and intensity that is usually a result of such training does not come through on this album. When attempting higher notes, her voice often fades away. On the gospel-esque "Rejoicing (I'll Never Forget)", her background singers sound as if they're singing on a different record.

All this aside, this album is not without some jams worth noting. The best of these include "Is It Love?," which confirms that disco is becoming a stronger influence on today's dance music. Also worth the journey is "It's Over Now," and the sophisticated, down-tempo "Rain."

TOUGH YOUNG TENORS

"Alone Together"
(Antilles/Island)

Unless you've had your head under a rock for the last year, you've no doubt heard a lot of talk about the so-called "young lions" of jazz. A steady stream of incredibly talented young musicians have turned the often complacent jazz world on its collective ear. An exceptional quintet of tenor sax players—James Carter, Herb Harris, Tim Warfield, Jr., Walter Blanding, Jr. and Todd Williams—make this recording well worth seeking out.

The greatest traditions of jazz are preserved, as influences from John Coltrane to Ben Webster shine through. The album's composition allows each player's talent ample opportunities to soar: each player has a solo performance, each does two duets and all five jam in the final track, "The Eternal Triangle." Pianist Marcus Roberts, whose reputation was greatly enhanced by playing with Wynton Marsalis' group, gives the rhythm section added credibility, along with bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Ben Riley.

Harris, a Washington, D.C. native, has a smooth, romantic style that makes "You Go to My Head" one of the album's outstanding ballads. Thelonius Monk's "Ask Me Now," showcasing Blanding's excellent tone and emotional quality, and Duke Ellington's "Stevie," which features both Warfield and Williams, are just a few of many treasures.

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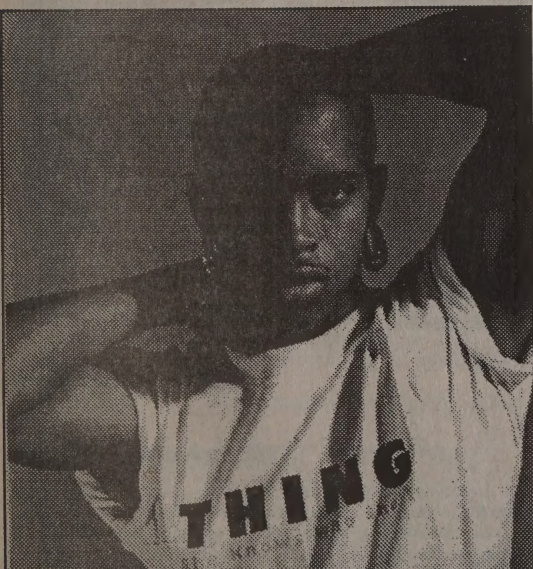


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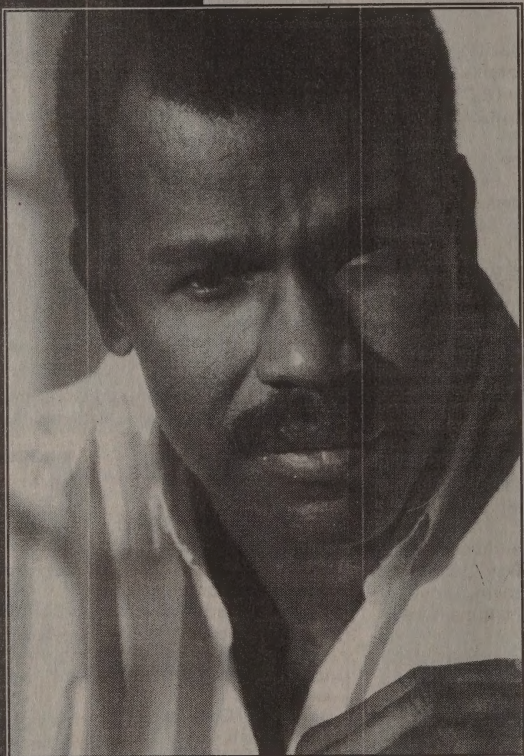
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BLK NEWS

COMPILED BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON, NEWS EDITOR

DAVID JENNINGS

GLOW Adds New Chapters

JOHANNESBURG—GLOW, a predominantly black lesbian and gay activist organization started in 1989 now has grown to four chapters in Kwa-Thema, Tembisa, Soweto and Johannesburg Central.

The launching of GLOW has tended to belie the assumption that homosexuality in South Africa is merely a "white-male, middle-class problem." According to GLOW, most South African homosexuals aren't white, about half are female.

GLOW is a campaign organization, setting out to challenge conservative assumptions about lesbians and gays, changing them if it can, and fighting the oppression of lesbians and gay men.

—John Hubert

2,000 March in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Two thousand lesbians and gay men took to the streets Oct. 12 in the country's—and Africa's—second ever lesbian and gay pride parade. The marchers stepped off from the Great Hall at Witwatersrand University.

There were contingents from Cape Town, Durban, the Orange Free State and Pretoria—from Gazankulu, Rop and neighboring Swaziland, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Police behaved well—going so far as to provide a motorcycle escort. Riot squads were sprinkled along the route to protect marchers.

The marchers—40 percent black, 60 percent white—represented gay political groups, gay sports teams, AIDS care providers, the Johannesburg health department, unions, student political organizations, the African National Congress, and *Exit*, Africa's only gay newspaper.

The post-march party in the park featured organizational booths, food, beer, a puppet show, singing, dancing, "and a general re-affirmation of our identity," according to one lesbian.

Last year, 800 people turned out for Johannesburg's first pride parade. Both marches were organized by GLOW, the Soweto-based gay group founded by anti-apartheid and gay activist Tseko Simon Nkoli.

—Rex Wockner and Gerry Davidson

Lorde Named New York Poet

ALBANY, N.Y.—Audre Lorde has been selected to receive the New York State Walt Whitman Citation of Merit for poets. The New York State Writers Institute announced on Oct. 2 that Lorde will serve as official State Poet from 1991-1993. Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded the prestigious citation at a special ceremony here on Nov. 13.

The poetry citation, along with the New York State Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for fiction writers was established in 1985 by the State Legislature under the aegis of the New



William Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Audre Lorde, Patrick Swygert

York State Writers Institute. Established to "promote and encourage fiction/poetry within the state," the citations are presented to a New York State writer and poet upon the recommendation of an advisory panel of distinguished writers every other year. The fiction writer citation was awarded to Norman Mailer.

The advisory panel for the State Poet award consisted of Robert Creeley, who is the current State Poet, Molly Peacock, Charles Simic, and Tom Smith, associate director of the Writers Institute.

"I am honored to stand as poet for New York State—itsself a poem of complexity, contradictions, and wonder—and to accept this award named for one of my earliest beacons toward the real matter of poetry," said Lorde in a press statement.

In a September 1990 BLK interview, Lorde described herself as "a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet and mother doing my work."

Her work, as described by Robert Creeley in a press release, is "a poetry of consummate human dignity which speaks for all who are caught in the trammels of poverty or disenfranchisement, that sad word for the powerlessness of the forgotten. She insists on all the range of particularity of human feelings, of care for one another, of love despite our defenses."

—Eric K. Washington

Black AIDS Educators Meet

LOS ANGELES—The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was one of several kick-off events that brought together front line health care providers and educators from across California.

The workshops and training were presented by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Asso-

ciation of Black and White Men Together. As part of San Francisco's Gay Men of Color Consortium, presenters also came from the Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services, and organizations representing Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and the Native American communities.

Reggie Williams, executive director of NTFAP; Paul Davis of the Minority AIDS Project; Phill Wilson, City of Los

Angeles AIDS Services Coordinator; Dr. Wilbert Jordan, director of the AIDS institute at King Drew Medical Center; and more than two dozen other experts participated in the all-day workshops.

The institute was held the day before the Creating Change West conference was set to begin at the Sheraton Townhouse which evoked some complaints. Most out-of-town participants were not able to stay for the entire conference. More than just the registration fee was at issue, as most of the participants had learned of the conference only in the week or two preceding it. Airfare, housing, and duties at their respective agencies were listed as barriers to participation in the three days and nights of events around the conference.

—Mark Haile

BLK BRIEFS

NEW YORK: *Paris Is Burning* was voted the year's Best Documentary by the 25-member New York Film Critics' Circle.

PHILADELPHIA: Dwayne and Carlton Bennett, both 20, and Giovanni Reed, 16, were arrested in the robbery murder of Robert Charles Janke. Janke, 22, was a volunteer with Nite Watch, a neighborhood group formed to protect gay businesses.

MOBILE: The Mobile Area Lesbian and Gay Assembly adopted a mission statement at its Nov. 18 meeting which read, in part, "to build a multi-cultural community where all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation...may congregate to support one another..."

NASHVILLE: The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain that has been under fire for its anti-gay hiring policies may incur the wrath of the African-American community for the "black mammy" dolls it carries in its adjacent gift shops.

BALTIMORE: The Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore has been awarded \$10,000 from the state for AIDS education.

ATLANTA: A suspect identified only as Linsay has been arrested and charged with assault telling officers the victim was just a "fucking homo."

HARARE, Zimbabwe: The manager of the Amenities Dept. said in Sept. that the city's four cemeteries are full and officials are considering requiring that persons who die of AIDS be cremated.

HOUSTON: Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged in the shooting death of Philip W. Smith, 24, outside a Montrose bar. Police say Darrington said he shot the victim because he hates homosexuals.

MILWAUKEE: Catherine Lacy is suing three Milwaukee police officers, charging that their racism contributed to the death of her 23-year-old son, Oliver. The victim's mother says that her son would be alive today if the officers had believed witnesses' complaints and arrested Jeffrey Dahmer rather than returning a naked, bleeding Laotian boy to Dahmer's care.

SAN DIEGO: Sistahparty held a workshop "Bridging the Gap: Celebrating Our Diversity" Nov. 23.

NEW YORK: Among the productions featured at Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Television Festival were *Splash* by Thomas Harris, *She Don't Fade* by Cheryl Dunye, *Homosexuality: A Child's Point of View* by Jahanara and *Emergence* by Pratibha Parmar. The festival took place in New York Oct. 9 through 13.

MILWAUKEE: The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee held a discussion "Racism II: An Exploration of Attitudes and Experiences" Nov. 21.

NEW YORK: Men of All Colors/New York sponsored a four-month, four-session series, "Our Sisters, Ourselves" about relationships between black lesbians and gay men.

NEW YORK: Among *Good Christian Peoples*, a video by Catherine Saalfeld and Jacqueline Woodson was shown at the Center Sept. 27.

Peoples includes the music of the Lavendar Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir...

Group Names '92 Officers

WASHINGTON—The D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men announced its leadership roster for 1992 following elections. Co-chairs of the membership organization representing black lesbians and gay men of the nation's capital are Kevin Taylor and Carlene Cheatam. Darren Buckner continues as business manager. Jim Byers wears two hats as secretary and membership committee chairman.

The political action committee is headed by Ernest Hopkins and Venus Thrash and the education committee is being led by Louise Gant and Gideon Ferebee. Sabrina Sojourner and Darren Buckner took charge of the finance committee while Stuart Adams and Jackie Walker preside over the newsletter committee.

John Wilson, chairman of the D.C. City Council delivered a personal message of congratulations at the installation ceremony for the new officers and took an opportunity to stump for his new legislation which would allow rights for domestic partners similar to those that married couples enjoy.

—Mark F. Johnson

Man Calls Cleveland 'Dad'

LOS ANGELES—Andre M. Cleveland, formerly Andre McIsaac, claims he is the adopted son of the late Rev. James Cleveland. The 34 year old record producer has disputed the James Cleveland Trust, which maintains the Cornerstone Baptist Church and the Gospel Music Workshop of America, since the death of the Rev. Cleveland in February. The estate is said to be worth \$6 million, of which Andre Cleveland claims half.

In documents creating the trust, which was formed only hours before Rev. Cleveland slipped irrevocably into a coma, Cleveland's daughter LaShone was left \$100,000, and Andre, referred to as a "friend and godson" was left \$10,000.

Andre Cleveland stated at his West Hollywood press conference that after a year of living together, it was "mutually agreed that I would become his common-law son, bearing his name."

Jean Ervin, mother of the late minister's daughter, said that there were any number of young men who also cohabited with Rev. Cleveland over the years.

According to widely repeated but unsubstantiated rumors, Rev. Cleveland was preceded in death by his last love by about a year.

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file suit, it could throw into jeopardy the future existence of Cornerstone Baptist Church, already considerably run down and weed ridden less than a year after its founder's death. Cleveland contends that resorting to a lawsuit would strictly be because of "the principle of the matter," but others have noted that the "interest" could be quite high as well.

—Mark Haile

Judge Quizzes Jurors

NEW YORK—Heated controversy broke out here over a rumor that a judge had decided to allow defense lawyers in a gay-bashing murder trial to ask prospective jurors their sexual orientation. One of the defense lawyers, Harold Harrison, was quoted in the *New York Post* as saying, "The judge agreed that we will be able to question each juror about their sexual preference."

On the following Monday, as lesbians and gays demonstrated outside the Kew Gardens courthouse, Justice Sherman was reported to have angrily denied agreeing to such a line of questioning and to have declared, "No juror will be asked if they are homosexual."

"I think that the defense lawyers are completely out of line in this case," said Sandra Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in comments to BLK. Lowe asserted that such a line of questioning was impermissible and unconstitutional and she expressed her skepticism that the judge would allow it.

The case has been the cause of outrage in the lesbian and gay community since July 2, 1990, when 29-year old Julio Rivera was repeatedly beaten in the head with a hammer and wrench and stabbed in the back by three men who left him for dead. It took months, with constant community pressure spearheaded by the Anti-Violence Project, before the police finally classified the murder as a bias-related incident. Of the three accused, one man, Dennis Doyle, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and is expected to turn state's witness against the other two.

Matt Forman, executive director of New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, agreed with Lowe and told BLK that he had confidence in the prosecutor's conduct of the case. But Forman added, "I don't have a lot of faith in any straight person's ability to understand the issue of anti-gay violence. This is not just a murder trial. The motive here is different. And I don't have a lot of faith in anyone's ability to make a jury understand that. We're crossing our fingers at this point."

—Eric K. Washington

Study Says Condoms Shunned

SAN FRANCISCO—A significant percentage of heterosexual African-Americans and Hispanics may be putting themselves at risk for AIDS because they don't like or believe in condoms, a University of California San Francisco study has found.

UCSF researchers interviewed nearly 1,800 single non-gay women and men, 20 to 44 years of age, who live in "high risk" neighborhoods of San Francisco. Blacks and Latinos, more than whites, felt that condoms are uncomfortable and immoral, according to the study.

The findings are troubling, because among heterosexuals in the United States, Latinos and African-Americans continue to be disproportionately at risk for AIDS.

Politician Slams Gays, Blacks

PALOS TOWNSHIP, Ill.—Forty percent of U.S. Congressmen may be homosexuals, says Donald Chapman, an elected trustee in Palos Township in southwest suburban Chicago. A township is a governmental entity that provides city-type services to unincorporated county areas.

"If it is true that 40 percent of Congress is homosexual, the country is not long for this world," Chapman wrote in his regular column in the *Regional News*, a 3,000-circulation local newspaper. "It does, however, explain why Congress is so intimidated by the homosexual lobby. It is the most powerful lobby in Washington today."

Chapman also said blacks are not as smart as whites—"it's not even a contest. Any aptitude tests will show whites far ahead. It's no secret that homosexuals back the black movement 100 percent. What about the rest of Congress, the ones that are straight? They are 100 percent behind any legislation that favors blacks, but for a different reason: They know how to count votes."

On Oct. 9, six days after the column appeared, Chapman was fired by the *Regional News*, after six years with the paper. His fellow trustees also called for his resignation. Chapman, however, said he would neither resign nor recant his statements. The other trustees are "Bonzos," he added.

—Rex Wockner

Woman Starts New Business

DALLAS—Black entrepreneur Leslie Despenza-Hale has formed a company to offer erotica for women loving women. Despenza-Hale says Androgyny, Inc. will alleviate a "serious lack of erotica for women in our society. But even more so, there is a total lack of erotica for those of us who love women." Her aim is to achieve levels of sophistication in erotica attained in the gay male commu-



Singin' in the Rain, c. 1991

nity.

"Our goal is to portray the beauty of a woman's body and also women loving women as only we can know it—as a beautifully erotic experience that involves all of the human sexes—not just sordid sexual stimuli for future sex acts, as it is portrayed in the heterosexual male magazines," said Despenza-Hale.

Future projects for Androgyny include a magazine, videos, photo sets, calendars, greeting cards, novels and sexual seminars.

One division of Androgyny will be Bisexual Females for Fun (BIFF), which will host monthly meetings, parties, cruises and trips. "We began an organization to try to take us away from our problems, even if it is only a temporary solution," explained Despenza-Hale. "Life is so short and sometimes you have to take a break from the problems of the universe to smell the roses and enjoy life."

—Mark Haile

AIDS Groups Get Sire Money

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of the National Minority AIDS Council and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation each received \$5,000 from Sire Records' 900 Hot Line, established last year to assist national and local AIDS



Bishop Carl Bean (sixth from left) accepts check from Warner Bros. Records President Lenny Waronker.

organizations. The ceremony was held at Warner Bros. Records Burbank headquarters.

The Sire Records 900-Hot Line allows callers who dial 1-900-990-SIRE to preview and rate new Sire releases, hear the latest release dates and tour information, listen to exclusive interviews with Sire recording artists and participate in contests to win various collectors' items, CDs and concert tickets. All monies earned from the Hot Line go directly to selected AIDS charities.

Jazzers Hold AIDS Benefit

NEW YORK—The Village Gate, long one of the City's most renowned jazz establishments, was host to Jazz Against AIDS on Oct. 7, a benefit performance for the Minority Task Force on AIDS and the National AIDS

Project of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The performance raised over \$7,500 to be shared equally between the two organizations.

"It was a wonderful success," Jacqueline Allen, an organizer of the evening, told BLK. "We hope to make it an annual event."

While AIDS fundraisers have become increasingly common from all sectors of the entertainment industry, Jazz Against AIDS is believed by many to be the first direct response to the health crisis by the jazz community.

Admission prices to the event were appropriately jazzy, too. General admission tickets cost \$35 and select seats for Sponsors or Benefactors and their guests were available at \$150 and \$250. All contributions were tax deductible.

—Eric K. Washington

Blacks Target of Gay Bashers

CHICAGO—At least four black gay men have been victims of or have witnessed gay bashings, the *Windy City Times* has reported. The men did not want their names published for fear of harassment.

The Jeffery Pub, a popular black gay bar on Chicago's south side, has about the third highest concentration of black gay men in the city. The area in which it is located, a middle-class black neighborhood, is not as heavily gay as the strips of white gay bars on the north side area known as New Town. Attacks have been occurring over the past three months.

On Sept. 1, "John," said he was "slammed in the neck with a fist or forearm," causing a bleeding cut. He didn't see who hit him, but he says he saw about 20 teenage boys who had been standing nearby start to run down Jeffery Boulevard.

"Rick," a 45-year-old black gay man, has been going to the Jeffery Pub since the early '70s. He admitted that this past summer anti-gay violence became more pervasive, though he has heard stories of bashings in the past.



"She's always up at the crack of Dawn."



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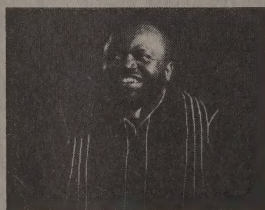
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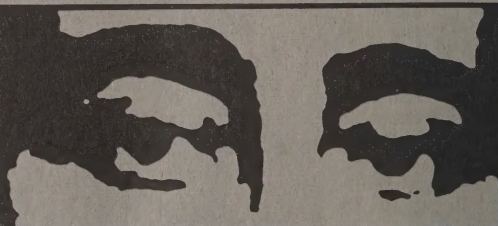
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A heterosexual woman who lives across the street from the bar stated that "almost every weekend" she has seen black gay men beaten for months. "They wait for guys to get out of their cars and then they jump them," she said.

"Rick" said that in mid-July one evening two men looked as though "they'd been beaten, jumped on and sprayed with mace" after going out of the bar and running back in with tattered clothes. He also stated that someone threw a rock through the door window.

The Jackson Park golf course, located about a mile from the Jeffery Pub, is a cruising area at night for black gay men.

"Ron" said on Aug. 9 he was in his car with someone when a group of teenagers smashed the back window with a golf club while surrounding the car. A year ago he was beaten and robbed of a gold chain while in the park. He informed police officers of both attacks and they were unsympathetic, saying that their attitude was, "Well, what are you doing in the park this late?"

"Ron" said that homophobic police officers do nothing about the gay bashings but do arrest people on public sex charges.

—Antonio Sharp

Lowe Takes N.Y. State Post

NEW YORK—Sandra J. Lowe, formerly a staff attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has become the director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns for New York State.

Lowe began as Mario Cuomo's liaison to the gay and lesbian community on Dec. 2, after three years at Lambda working on a range of issues including civil rights, domestic partnership, anti-gay and lesbian violence, and employment discrimination, among others.

One of the key national players in the effort to overturn the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members, Lowe gave direction and energy to Lambda's contribution to that effort. "Lambda was exhilarating, exciting," Lowe stated. "It put me on the cutting edge of the human rights movement, a rare and wonderful vantage point."

"Because of her incredible background, experience, and wisdom, Sandy was a very powerful and important person to the Lambda staff and organizational consciousness," noted Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director. "Even though we will miss her terribly, we all take great pride in her decision to take her myriad skills to state government."

As director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian



Sandy Lowe

TOM TYBURNSKI

Concerns, Lowe told BLK her personal mission for the office would be to achieve "visibility, credibility, passage of the civil rights amendment and domestic partnership."

Lowe dates her career as an activist from the early '60s when she joined the Congress of Racial Equality. She graduated from CUNY Law School in Queens, N.Y. in 1987 and worked as a criminal defense attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia before joining Lambda. Lowe is currently a board member of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Johnson Signs for 3 Books

EW YORK—Basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson has reached agreement with Random House on a multiple book contract, Harold Evans, president and publisher of the Random House Trade Group, announced in December. Johnson will write an autobiography covering his basketball career and personal life culminating with the announcement that he has contracted the HIV virus.

In addition, Johnson, working with former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, will prepare a guide to responsible sexual behavior. All profits from this guide, which is intended to have the widest possible distribution, will go to the newly formed Magic Johnson Foundation to support education, care, and research efforts.

The contents of the third book will be determined at a future time. Evans said, "In a short time, by his courage and vision in the face of his adversity, Magic Johnson has aroused as much admiration among as wide an audience as he has in a lifetime of athletic brilliance."

Johnson was represented in his discussion with Random House by Michael Ovitz, chairman of the Creative Artists Agency, on a *pro bono* basis.

Johnson's autobiography is scheduled for publication by the Fall of 1992. The book will be edited by Peter Osnos, vice president and associate publisher of Random House.

The guide to responsible sexual behavior will be a paperback published by Times Books, a Random House imprint, and it will be available in the spring of 1992. Johnson, a three-time Most Valuable Player award winner of the National Basketball Association, led the Los Angeles Lakers to five world championships and is acknowledged as one of the great sports heroes of the age. He has now won applause, on giving up the game, by devoting his time to spreading the message of responsible sexual behavior and raising funds to assist people with AIDS.

AFA Boycott Targets Listed

UPELO, Miss.—The American Family Association, a right-wing, anti-gay fundamentalist organization, has targeted a number of companies, products and television shows for boycott.

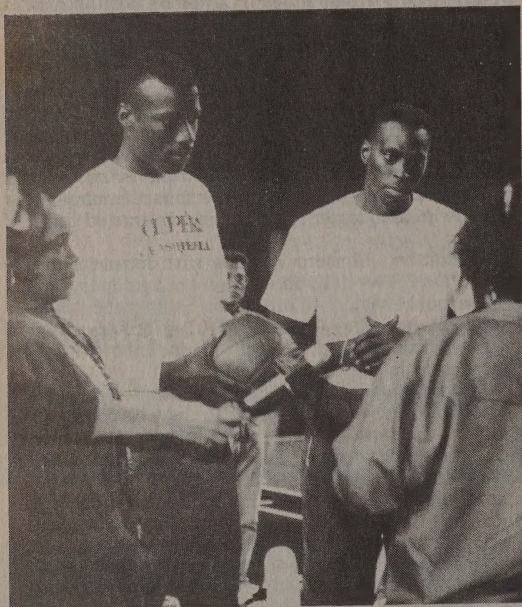
They include Arm and Hammer, General Motors, Alpo, Burger King, Green Giant, Hägen Dazs, Pearl Vision, Ben Gay, Unisom, Visine, Phillip Morris, makers of Birds Eye, Breyers, Brim, Cool Whip, General Foods, Jell-O, Kraft, Lowenbrau, Miller, Marlboro, Oscar Meyer, Parkay, Sanka, Sealtest, Glade, Johnson Wax, Off, Raid, Aspercreme, Slim-fast and Toyota.

Television shows include *Doctor Doctor*, *Gabriel's Fire*, *Golden Girls*, *L.A. Law*, *The Hogan Family*, *Life Stories*, *Over*

My Dead Body, The Simpsons, Thanksgiving Day, and thirty-something.
—Mark Haile

L.A. Clippers Enter AIDS Fight

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Clippers have stepped into the AIDS arena by shooting a public service announcement for the Shanti Foundation, becoming the first NBA team to take action against HIV



Loy Vaught and Tony Brown

since Magic Johnson's announcement that he was HIV positive.

The 30-second commercial, taped at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, features Clippers Loy Vaught and Tony Brown. The spot addresses Shanti's safe sex education and HIV counseling services, and urges people to get involved in the fight, telling them that the "ball's in your court."

The commercial is currently being distributed to stations throughout southern California.

Founded in 1983, the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support and education to those affected by life-threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS. Shanti services includes support and education groups, monthly information seminars and one-on-one peer support volunteers.

D.C. Black Pride Set for May

WASHINGTON—History will repeat itself next May when black lesbians and gay men in D.C. hold their second Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day as planned. The event, scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, will pick up where last year's event left off, according to

organizer Carlene Cheatam.

Despite the oppressive heat, hundreds of black lesbians and gay men turned out last year. After the success of the event, groups in other cities announced plans to hold their own local versions.

Proceeds from the event, as last year, will go to organizations that are active in the fight against the spread of AIDS and those that care for AIDS patients.

Next year, organizers plan to extend the festivity to the entire weekend, which culminates with Pride Day, May 24. The weekend, traditionally very popular as black lesbians and gay men from around the nation converge on the District, will kick off with a social May 23 and be followed by a concert.

Events to raise funds for the second annual celebration of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride are planned throughout February, Black History Month.
—Mark F. Johnson

Black Groups at Marathon

NEW YORK—Sensible shoes on a Saturday night? To fight AIDS?

Nona Hendryx, Monie Love, Salt-N-Pepa and 2 in a Room were among the headliners at the second annual AIDS Dance-a-thon which drew thousands on Nov. 30. The five-hour fundraising extravaganza, which took place at the Javits Convention Center in midtown Manhattan and housed 100,000 square feet of dance floor, elaborate lighting and donated refreshments, benefitted the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's oldest and largest AIDS organization.

The Dance-a-thon, which had been promoted by pop star Madonna, was part of a GMHC project called 10 Days/10 Deeds which began Nov. 22 and led up to Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. The campaign's highlight was the city-wide distribution on Nov. 26 of 100,000 condoms and safer-sex flyers during the morning and evening subway rush hours. The Dance-a-thon attracted 7,300 people who raised \$1.6 million for GMHC.

The event was also the New York City site for "Red Hot + Dance," a dance party held simultaneously in numerous cities worldwide on the eve of World AIDS Day. A TV special and album are planned for release next Spring that will feature the parties and performers as well as promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education.
—Eric K. Washington

New Orgs Spring in Rochester

ROCHESTER—Two new gay organizations for people of color have sprung up like a late harvest this fall in upstate New York. RLOCO (for Rochester Lesbians of Color Organization) and Brothers United both formed independently of each other in Rochester during the final months of last year.

"Our time has come to be seen, heard and known," said Diane Conway who set RLOCO in motion last August by attracting interested lesbians with flyers and advertisements in Empty Closets, the local gay journal. "We've decided to start RLOCO out as a social group first to gather people, and then later we'll look into forming its organization."

Gary English, founder of Brothers United, sees his group as "basically a social group," too, citing that black gays in Rochester are alienated in that town's social scene. "The black gay community is basically underground," English

told BLK.

Daryl Kittelberger, who is president of the group, agreed, asserting that many black gays prefer to drive the extra miles to Buffalo for the nightlife lacking in Rochester. But Kittelberger said, "I see Brothers United as primarily a support group, as well as social.

On Dec. 14, the two groups got together. Brothers United sponsored its first social event at the Gay Alliance, a community space in Rochester. *Tongues Untied*, the award-winning documentary film by Marlon Riggs, was shown at the event, which was followed by a party.

"People came from Ithaca, Syracuse and Buffalo," said Charles Stevens, the group's treasurer, who was happy to note that Brothers United signed up 48 new members that evening. "The oldest member is 57. The youngest is 20," Stevens said. He added, "I think it went over very well."

Conway, who gave a solidarity message to Brothers United, agreed, noting that, while it did not achieve as numerous a roster as did the men's group, RLOCO also benefited from a surge in membership as a result of the event.

The founders of both groups appeared enthusiastic about the prospect of black lesbians and gays finally coming together, not only as a visible contingency of Rochester's mainstream gay community, but as an integral component of the general black community. Both English and Kittelberger hope Brothers United will address AIDS. "There's a lack of knowledge about HIV," said Kittelberger of the general black community in Rochester. "We have people who still believe you can get it from kissing."

—Eric K. Washington

AIDS Money to Black Center

LAS VEGAS—Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) raised more than \$10,000 at a benefit at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas to go, in part, toward developing the African-American Resources Center in West Las Vegas. The project will be a satellite of AFAN operated in conjunction with the Nevada Treatment Center.

Additional funds for the development of the prototype project will come from the AFAN thrift store opening this fall, and the United Way, which has provided \$86,000 in the first eight months of 1991.

Conference Changes Site

LOS ANGELES—The fifth National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes originally scheduled for the Clarion Hotel in Oakland have been moved to the Oakland Airport Hilton, 1 Hegenberger Rd. adjacent to the Oakland Airport. The annual event takes place Feb. 13-17.

Linda Villarosa, a senior editor at *Essence*, and her mother Clara Villarosa, owner of Hue-man Bookstore in Denver will be featured speakers. Other featured speakers include Sherry Harris, Dr. Marjorie Hill, Dr. Billy E. Jones, Sandra Lowe and Dr. Tim Moragne.

The weekend will include an AIDS Institute on Thursday, and four concurrent Institutes on Friday, Women's Issues, Culture, Spirituality and Leadership. Over 50 workshops and caucuses will be presented Saturday and Sunday. Events end on Monday with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's annual meeting.

Social and cultural events include a party at Whispers Thursday evening; a women's reading and party Friday evening; readings from Assoto Saint's *The Road Before Us*, an awards banquet and dance Saturday evening; and a co-gender reading and bus tour of San Francisco Sunday evening.

The Conference and Institutes are a joint venture of the Leadership Forum which is sponsor and Unity Bay Area which is host. Phone number for the event is 213-666-5495.

Skinheads Indicted in Attack

BOSTON—Racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic literature was found on one of three men arrested for attacking two gay men in Boston.

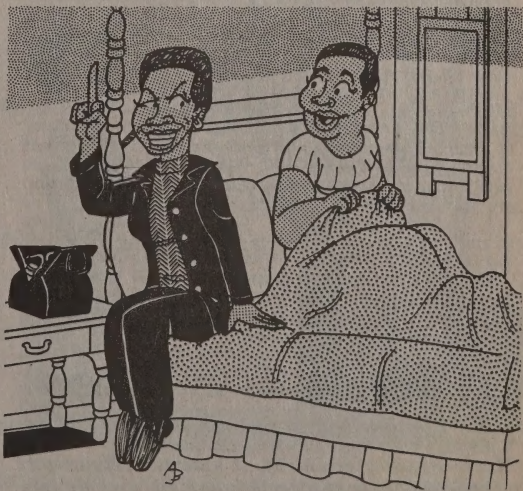
At least two of the men arrested by police, who witnessed the attack, were skinheads. The white supremacist material led to an indictment for civil rights violations causing bodily injury, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison if convicted. Donald Pilkington, Jr., 19, Kenneth E. Anderson, 18, and Matthew R. Caruso, 18, were named in the indictment.

Martina Sees Double Standard

NEW YORK—"If I had the AIDS virus, would people be understanding?" said tennis star Martina Navratilova speaking of Magic Johnson's recent disclosure that he was HIV positive. "No, because they'd say I'm gay I had it coming. That's why they're accepting it with [Johnson] because supposedly he got it through heterosexual contact.

Navratilova spoke Nov. 20 after practice for the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. Her comments were printed in the *New York Post*.

"There have been other athletes who died from AIDS and they were pushed aside because they either got it from



"Just a minute, Doctor. That 'vaginal thermometer' looks like a finger to me."

drugs or they were gay," Navratilova told the *Post*. "That's pretty scary. If it had happened to a heterosexual woman who had been with 100 or 200 men, they'd call her a whore and a slut and the corporations would drop her like a lead balloon. And she'd never get another job in her life."

"It's a very big-time double standard, and it's frightening because it's happening. When it comes to promiscuity, it's very much accepted [among men]. And women are banished."

Dinkins Relents on Needles

NEW YORK—After clearly expressing his opposition to government sponsored needle exchange programs last year, Mayor David Dinkins has had a drastic change of heart. In a reversal of city policy, New York City will establish government endorsed needle exchange programs.

Following Mayor Dinkins' review of official research reports from Yale University and a New Haven-based needle exchange program, which documented decreased AIDS cases after the implementation of such programs, the Mayor conferred with Acting Health Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg who similarly recommended that a needle exchange program be instituted in New York City.

According to the *New York Times*, Mayor Dinkins has called the city's recent support of this somewhat controversial program, "a more aggressive approach by his administration to fight both AIDS and drug abuse."

Prior to the city's drastic turn in policy, ACT-UP had established needle exchange sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan where intravenous drug users were counseled on the twin dangers of using drugs and sharing needles.

Although an official starting date has not been set, the Dinkins Administration has expressed support of programs

—similar to those of ACT-UP—which will provide intravenous drug users with AIDS education and drug counselling. It is a move that both AIDS activists and city officials alike have applauded as a positive and effective measure in slowing the spread of AIDS.

Mayor Dinkins is looking to private organizations to fund the pilot programs which will be run by community groups throughout the city. The American Foundation for AIDS Research has announced that it will donate \$300,000 for four pilot programs, which will include one New York City locale. In addition to soliciting financial assistance from private foundations, the city will select community groups which will be given State Department of Health Waivers enabling them to exchange needles when necessary.

Other cities which have already implemented government sponsored needle exchange programs include: Honolulu, Hawaii; Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington.

—LaRose Parris

BMX Holds Cultural Gathering

OAKLAND—The Black Men's Xchange (BMX) and the African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI) have announced plans for their 1992 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat. The event will take place Feb. 14-16, the same weekend as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference.

BMX, which was founded in Los Angeles by Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson in 1989 for "black men who love men," sports chapters in seven cities across the country. The group, headquartered in Oakland, Calif., now also includes activities open to women and non-people of color.

HIV/AIDS will be the focus on Friday when AMASSI considers outreach strategies, treatment and counseling services that have been effective in black male, women's and children's communities. Education and prevention programs and activities in African-American communities will also be considered. The events, collectively titled "African-Americans Living in the Age of AIDS: a Celebration of Life," will take place at Providence Auditorium, 3100 Summit St.

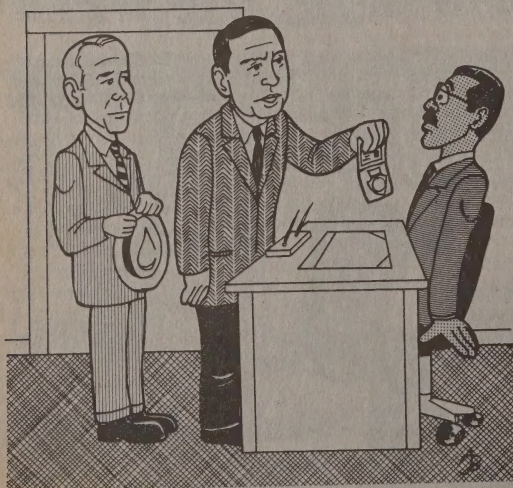
On Saturday at Humanist Hall, BMX will host a series of events focusing on community, Afrocentrism and empowerment. The Hall is located at 320 27th St. A party and fundraiser, "Let Us Admire Your African Attire," is scheduled for Saturday night at Bella Napoli, 2330 Telegraph. The conference ends on Sunday with a retreat for existing and prospective BMX chapters.

BMX can be reached at 800-821-5143.

Johnson to Begin Taking AZT

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (UPI)—Retired Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson will begin taking AZT to combat the HIV virus upon his return from vacation according to his agent, Lon Rosen. AZT, one of two drugs approved by the federal government for use in AIDS treatment, has come under fire from some AIDS researchers who doubt its effectiveness.

"He will begin treatment when he returns," Rosen said at the Forum recently. "It's not critical, or else he wouldn't be on vacation, but he wants to start it. The reason he's not starting it now is because he needs to be monitored while he's taking it."



"Federal Bureau of Sensitivity, sir. It seems that last night you neglected to comment on the bearnaise sauce William spent three hours preparing yesterday. You have the right to remain silent...."

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

GWEN ALEXANDER, died Aug. 24 of complications related to AIDS as reported in the *Washington Blade*. After graduating high school, Alexander studied cosmetics in New York and Maryland. Her expertise with cosmetics enabled her to work as a makeup artist and model. She was a well-known entertainer, pageant winner and recipient of many awards including the Best Professional Entertainer Award from the Academy Awards of Washington. She was 36.

JESSE 'JAY' BLACK, JR., died July 21, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Black, born June 2, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio lived in New York for a time and settled finally in San Francisco in 1974. In 1976, Black enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent much of his tour in Guam. After active duty he stayed on with the Naval Reserve. From 1980 until his death he was employed by Pacific Bell. Black was 46.

RICHARD A. BOYDSTON, a Rochester resident, died of complications associated with AIDS. Boydston appeared internationally as a dancer and received many honors. He is survived by his mother and friends from California to New York. He was 24.

TIM DOLLSON, died of AIDS related complications in June as reported in the *Mom, Guess What!* newspaper. Dollson was a resident of Sacramento from birth, although he lived briefly in Minnesota and San Francisco. He was employed by various organizations, the last being the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn. Dollson, known to be an excellent dancer, was 31.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DUNHAM, born Jan. 14, 1960, died Aug. 19 of cancer. Dunham served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 31.

GORDON TYRONE DUNN, died Aug. 15 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Born during 1955 in North Carolina, Dunn attended school and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. In 1981, receiving an honorable discharge, Dunn moved to Washington where he worked for MCI. Active in the community, he volunteered with the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's campaign office. He was 36.

CLEVELAND GATES, JR., died Aug. 30 of AIDS complications. Born Mar. 6, 1958 in Chicago, Gates completed high school and worked as a general contractor. A segment of his work was featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. Moving to Florida for a few years, Gates worked as a manager for the Club Bath chain. Returning to Chicago, he was an active volunteer with several organizations and was the television spokesperson for Bonaventure House. Gates was also active in the '80s with BWMT as reported in the *Chicago Gay Times*. He was 35.

TONY HUGHES, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

ERNEST A. JOHNSON, born Aug. 9, 1954 in Washington, D.C. died Sept. 14, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. After receiving his B.S. in 1976 from Ferris State University, Johnson worked for General Motors corporate headquarters. In 1980, he moved to San Francisco and was employed by Pacific Bell, he also worked as a loan officer. He is survived by his lover of eight years, Brian Dezzani.

DWIGHT E. JORDAN, drowned in Arizona while innertubing in a river on Sept. 6 as reported by *In Step*. Known for entertaining, Jordan toured the U.S. and Canada. He was 36.

JOHN W. KEMP, died Aug. 1 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He was 44. Born Aug. 4, 1943 and raised in Detroit, Kemp moved to San

Francisco in 1981. An MBA graduate of Harvard, he worked as chief financial officer for North Coast Industries and was president of OMCOA among his varied positions. During the '60s Kemp was a member of the Capitols and sang with them for sometime.

HENRY LOVETT, born Oct. 30, 1958, died Sept. 23 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Metroline*. Born in Georgia, Lovett moved to Conn. where he lived and worked until his death. Employed in the food service industry, he worked for T.G.I. Friday's for 11 years, as well as Mr. Steak and the Great American Cafe. He was 32.

MARTIAL-RIO, died Nov. 15 of AIDS complications. A Los Angeles resident for over 20 years, he was a hair stylist for 11 years with such clients as Natalie Cole and Diahann Carroll before he established a public relations business. A board member of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Martial-Rio was the PWA coordinator for two of the annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences and volunteered for the Minority AIDS Project. He is survived by his lover, Bill Weinberg, and uncle, Leonard Simon.

KENNETH A. MARTIN, died July 29 of complications associated with AIDS. Born June 1, 1962 in Chicago, Martin was educated at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and went on to receive his B.A. from Illinois State University as well as his teaching certificate in Spanish. Teaching high school from 1985-89, Martin left and accepted a position at Test Positive Awareness. From 1989 until his death, Martin was executive director of TPA, an outreach worker for BE-HIV and an active client of AAHP as reported in *Gay Chicago*. He was 29.

ERNEST MILLER, a 24-year-old member of BWMT-Milwaukee, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

JEFFREY PATRICK, 39, died Aug. 9 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. In 1982, Patrick received his B.A. from the University of D.C. and began work as an accountant at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Patrick was a member of the theater group, Encore, and appeared in many productions. He produced and directed *Feeling Good All Over*. Patrick founded COCON a network of friends across the country. Through the county recreation department he instructed modern dance classes for children.

FREEMAN POLLARD, died July 31 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. A native of Alabama, Pollard graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 and from New York University in 1967. Moving to D.C. in 1971, he worked for the National Urban League. From 1978-82 he lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya for Planned Parenthood. When he returned to the U.S., Pollard worked as a consultant until his retirement last year. He was a collector of African art and a lover of baroque music. He was 49.

KELSEY PULLIAM, a native of Virginia died July 31 as reported in the *Washington Blade* of AIDS associated complications. With a bachelor of art's degree and a bachelor of science degree he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Moving to D.C. in 1978 he worked as a payroll coordinator for two government agencies while pursuing a second master's degree in business administration. As a bodybuilder Pulliam won many contests. He was 39.

RAYMOND PUGH, a soloist and choir director at Rev. T. L. Barrett's Church of Chicago died last year. He worked for more than 14 years as a customer service representative for a telephone communication company as reported in *Gay Chicago* magazine. Pugh had a love for designer clothes and furniture.

RAFAEL ROMAN, born Oct. 24, 1946, died Nov. 4, of AIDS related complications. He was 45. Roman was a founding board member of Community Health Project of New York where he worked as a volunteer for ten years. He is survived by his lifemate, Michael Dupre.

SHANE, died July 3 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Chiron Rising*. A 47-year-old New Yorker, he was an author and wrote many pieces of published fiction.

EDWARD SMITH, a BWMT-Milwaukee member was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

CURTIS STRAUGHTER, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

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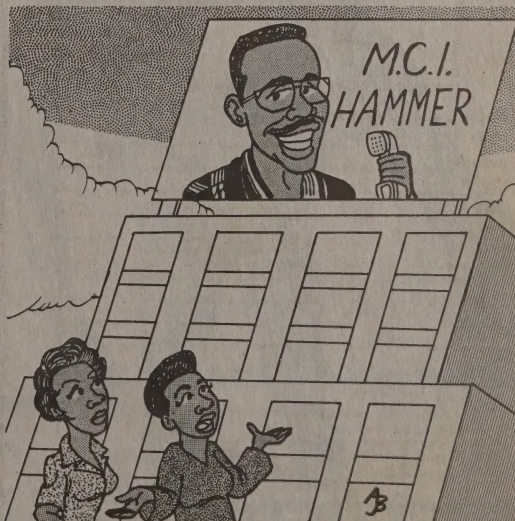
BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Basgo's was the unofficial headquarters of Black and Brown Men Together during L.A.'s **Sunset Junction Street Fair**. We saw one of our favorite future husbands, **Bill Meredith**, roaming the fair side-by-side with gonna-be mayor **Mike Woo** who carefully shoe-horned his waxwork of a wife into every photo taken of him, lest anyone suspect Mike of pitching woo at one of the boys in that seething throng of same-sex strollers. Gay Chorus baritone **John Logan** was also there, just back from a singing tour through Europe where, he says, the natives wore him out beseeching private performances of John's, er, "rhythm-and-moves"... Struttin' his bulgin' stuff all over the nation these days is "**D**"**Cannon**, the Paul Bunyan of Gay Blackdom, aka Mr. International Leather, who tells anybody he catches whining about racism that he's never experienced discrimination in the gay leather scene. Well, we guess *not* with those pecs and that whip!... Guess what other leatherqueen decided to crash a meeting of L.A.'s **Arab Gays**, only to discover that other brothers also showed up in hopes of being dragged off to Araby by a desert sheik? Turns out that there were enough Valentino look-alikes down for adding a Queen of Sheba to their harems so no catfights ensued. Meeeeeow!... What's old and white and goes down the minute the sun sets? "Camp Mae West" is really just the name of the retreat L.A.'s **BWMTers**

escape to every summer near Lake Arrowhead. We hear they do all sorts of campy things like ride (horses), get high (mountain climbing) and eat (wienies and buns). Then there are the *indoor* activities designed to break down, uh, interracial barriers. *Lawd*, how them walls come tumblin' down... Speakin' of BWMT, we hear it has all but ceased to exist as a national organization since its last convention. Oh, it's still got chapters everywhere, but the Nat'l Assn's statement of purpose has been changed to read, "NABWMT is a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization" instead of "interracial organization." Victory tastes sweet when it's been a long time coming and the **MACT/NYers** have been nagging the national organization for years to shift focus from being a safe space for blacks and whites to date and mate to becoming a gay Third World-oriented coalition. They'd switch the biracial name to a multiethnic one if they could without forfeiting their late founder's \$300,000 legacy... A phoenix did arise from the convention's pyre: BWMT/Philly founder **Jerry (the Red) Mallon** released the updated *Anti-racism Manual-an Action Guide* just months before his death. He said he'd do it and he delivered on his word as always. Sweet sleep, Jerry... Ditto our beloved friends **Craig Harris** and **Ken Marshall**, both warriors for the cause... Avowed—but not verified—heterosexual

Keith Antar Mason and **the Ms. Vaginal Creme Davis** performed together at a Beyond Baroque Benefit in September. Vadge did Club Lingerie, more familiar turf, in August... Get your carnival drag off the rack, girlfriends, 'cuz Rio de Janeiro has joined Bahia in outlawing discrimination against homosex at last! Of course we hear that the closet is stuffed too full for most gays and lesbians to sashay out despite the new law. Well we'll just have to caravan on down there and show'em how to take advantage of their new freedom. Oooh, We just *adore* rummaging through other people's closets! But careful, police in Rio may still arrest you for "indecent contact," while transvestites have to carry special ID cards (Wait, does that mean those buffed Brazil-

ian cops are easily deceived? Honey, we're on our way!)... **Pomo Afro Homos** (whose act is *almost* as *avant garde* as their name and who dish dirt nearly as well as *yours truly*) hit New York at Dance Theater Workshop's Bessie Schonberg Theater Oct. 3-13... Our favorite cable program last summer was watching AB 101 pass in Sacramento on Cal-Span's coverage of California democracy in action. It's more entertaining than most of what's on the telly (especially **Miss Willie** in her *big chair bangin'* her gavel and tellin' all those Republicans to behave or be 'buked. The Speaker sho' do look like he's having a good time up there). Of course, **Petey the Teenie Weenie** was smart enuf not to have the cameras rolling when he



"Looks like rap has gone mainstream."

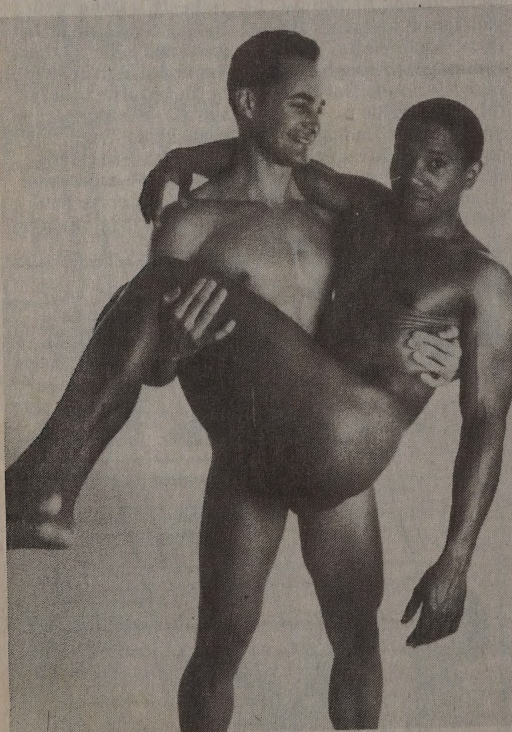
vetoed AB101! The Gov of the Golden (Shower) State sez he was busy all day on Oct. 11 when the demos came to town, and that he didn't hear a peep out of the 7,000 demonstrators. Yeah, right. L.A. activists **Debra Johnson**, **Bill Meredith** and **Warren Sims** were spotted in the crowd, and we know they know how to be heard. **Phill Wilson** and **Charles Stewart's** bosses sent them up for the Black Caucus hearings going on inside the Capitol but they escaped and joined the yelling crowd outside...It's getting easier to keep our resolve not to break our tiresome diet, what with **Taco Bell**, **Domino's**, **Kentucky Fried Chicken** and now **Pizza Hut**, all accused of

firing HIV positive employees. If you're trying to keep track, **Wendy's** has apologized to the gay community, and **Burger King** is now not only gay supportive, but *they* are being made the target of a boycott by the far right, so when you have to cheat and eat, do be politically correct about it. And just forget about the **Cracker Barrel** for a while, unless, of course, you'd like to drop in for a nice, long, leisurely glass of ice water, say, for an hour or so, with hmmm, say 100 of your closest friends. Sounds like a '60s sit-in, you say? Don't worry, the folks at the MLK Center in 'lanta have trained monitors to make sure the cops don't think it's the '60s, too...Poetry Festival: Seven days of les-

bian and gay readings during the third annual Los Angeles Poetry Festival included an evening of African-American *griots* (poets) Oct. 23 at Jewel's Catch One. Those reading from their works included **Adrienne, Amoke, Harry Gibson, Mark Halle, Precious, Tamu** and **Jerome Woods**... Difficult to believe that **R. Couri Hay's** column on how to exploit and take advantage of disenfranchised youth received nary a letter to the *Advocate*, but with the fuss over the muss of outing the Pentagon's **Pete Williams**, sheesh, we guess they didn't have space to print letters on anything else. The only mention of the rather tasteless and inherently racist column—part two of which mysteriously never ran—came from equally tasteless and inherently racist **Michael Musto** (the "queer" columnist for the *Village Voice*, with whom we'd never engage in a drinking match). Musto found fault that the "ultra-correct" Hetrick-Martin Institute had turned down a premiere of *The Black Lizard*, an early '60s camp film of Yukio Mishima from Japan. Sniped Musto, "Maybe if it had been called *Lizard of Color?*" Is Michael sneaking up to Harlem to "get some" after dissing people of color (especially after cocktails, and before bragging about straight men)...**BWMT/Milwaukee, Club Muse** and **Lesbians of Color** pooled talents for a picnic Aug. 18, at the Dineen Park Pavilion. The picnic was a needed diversion in the wake of a long, tragic summer for Milwaukee's gay men of color...The new TV season brought more black faces to the tube. And even **Star Trek** is going to beam in some gay folk from up in outer space somewhere. But black lesbians

and gays? Prime time can still only stand our stuff when it's ridiculed in comedy—not, mind you, that we don't love our sisters **Antoine** and **Blaine** dearly for their supreme self-regard! And you wonder why we turn off the TV and read (or go dancing when our culture-diva friends aren't looking)...At the second annual Open and Out Festival in L.A., **Colette Jackson** presented a two-part-one woman show, *Visions of a Mixed Child*, on the experience of being a multi-racial black, and *Coming Out in the Bible*, a retelling of stories of the Bible using black English that reveals gay affirmative content... **Lawrence Petty, Cleo Manago** and **David Bruce** celebrated their birthday Sept. 21 in a combined fête attended by 45 people. Among the luminaries in attendance were **Stanley Bennett Clay** and **Devre Jackson**... Chicago Transit Authority officials consider being HIV positive as a disability. Don't get offended, chile, get even! Pick up your special reduced busfare card, good on regional transportation systems, too. Call 312-561-9661 for details... **MACT/Chicago** celebrated its 11th anniversary at the **Annex 3**. Miss Gay Wisconsin, **Echo Chambers** was MC for the show...**BWMT/DC** held its 11th Oct. 11 in Crystal City...**Triangle MACT** said hello to its fifth Nov. 1... N.Y.C.'s **Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee** sponsored a festivity even chewier than the group's name with its \$12-a-plate Harvest Feast Nov. 15. Flyers for the event warned that the celebration was not to be confused with the European-American Thanksgiving holiday. 'scuse it!...Next stop: the conferences in Oakland, California!

MARK STUDNEY



The outside cover of greeting cards mailed to friends in December by black gay author Larry Duplechan and his lover Greg Harvey. Inside, the card read, "Thank you, Santa!" Hmmm. Who gave who what?

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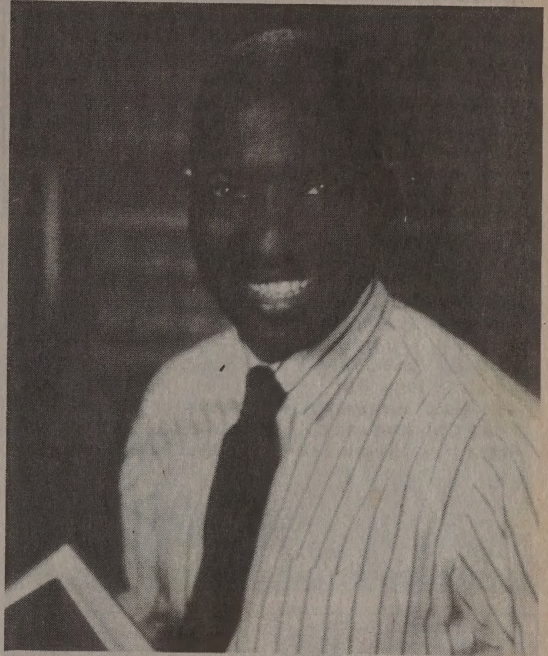
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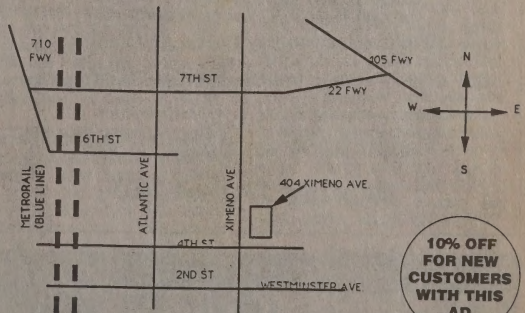
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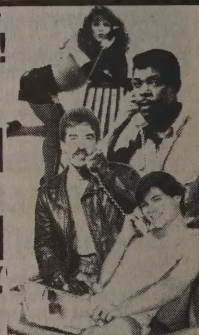


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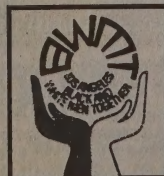
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Attention musicians: drummer and bass player needed for progressive, recording male vocal group. Must be experienced in R&B, gospel, jazz. Also auditioning 1st tenors & bass vocalists. For more information call: 213-484-9558. (42)

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The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of NYC is looking for talented, hard-working and dedicated individuals to fill vacancies on its Board of Directors. In order to achieve the goal of an ethnically and racially diverse board, the Center particularly encourages applications from people of color. Directors perform a variety of volunteer functions, most importantly fundraising and policy making for the Center. Requirements for board membership include: willingness to fundraise; experience with other lesbian and gay, nonprofit, or community-based groups; and commitment to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our community. To apply, send a resume or letter outlining your work and community experience, and request an application form. Deadline for application: February 14, 1992. Two-year terms will begin in spring 1992. Send to: Board Search Committee, Attn: Paula Marinac, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St., New York, NY 10011. (35)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will

enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd., #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

SERVICES

Anytime Video Recording Service. Available for: weddings, graduations, audition tapes, parties, last wills and testaments (taping), private, and any occasion. Reasonable rates. Quality service. Free estimates. A 24 hour service. Call 213-291-TIME. All calls returned promptly. (35)

HIV/AIDS Anonymous Testing. Result while you wait! Open Quest Health Center, AHC Medical Clinic, non-profit community facility. 818-356-0027 or 213-664-5000. (35)

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

Eddie Smith Hairstyling for men and women, 7115 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046 (1/2 block west of La Brea). 213-874-7210 work, 213-462-1220 home. Conditioning, coloring, relaxers, perms, Jheri curls, hair extensions. Featuring Nexus products. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Call for an appointment. Your satisfaction in hair care. (TF)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (E)

ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Humanist? Atheist? Agnostic? The Gay and Lesbian FreeThought Forum meets monthly. GLFF is also involved in education and actions. Info: GLFF, Box 15803, L.A., CA 90015 or 310-473-7302. (35)

Club F—Frottage. Multicultural social group for frotage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

The West Indian Social Connection asks: "Would you like to get back to your roots?" Further information, call 213-962-6867 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and leave a message. (34)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopac \$3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (35)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. 140. (E)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Manager. The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is looking for a qualified Accounting Manager. The ideal candidate will possess an accounting degree, minimum 2 years supervisory experience, and four years as a staff accountant or higher. Thorough knowledge of computerized accounting packages and spread-sheet programs a must. Non-profit grant accounting experience a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send a resume and cover letter to: GLCSC-Personnel, 1213N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (35)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (34)

African-American models over 18 wanted for all-male adult videos. Looking for at least one of the following: great body, gorgeous face or generous endowment. J/O only or participate with partner. Beginners OK. If you don't like the scene we shoot, or if you change your mind, we forget the whole thing. Have fun and make money. Call Scott Chandler at 213-338-9695, or send your picture to Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Bookkeeper. Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education, and care seeks a bookkeeper to work

under supervision of the Controller for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Bookkeeper will maintain daily and quarterly fiscal records, prepare audit documentation and provide technical assistance to administrative staff. Applicant should hold an undergraduate degree in accounting or business, or have strong, relevant experience in the public and/or non-profit sector. Good record keeping skills and computer literacy is required. Please send cover letter and resume to: Gay Men of Color Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 1800 Argyle #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027, Attn: Elizabeth. 213-462-2273. (35)

Clinical Psychologist. 3+ years licensed, experienced only. Treat hospital patients and supervise 3 psychological assistants. Full time only. Exciting. Salary/benefits. 213-664-5000. (35)

Counselor. Qualified counselors needed immediately. Experienced and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 818-356-0027. (34)

Curator. The 1992 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival seeks a guest curator for lesbian/women's programming. This is a temporary part-time training/skill-building position that offers a stipend of \$3,000. Qualified candidate should have knowledge of contemporary lesbian film/video and possess strong administrative skills. Experience with other film festivals a definite plus. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter to: Frameline Curator, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, EOE. (34)

Distribution assistant. Frameline, a non-profit lesbian/gay film and video organization, seeks a part-time distribution assistant. Responsibilities include booking films, distributing press kits, invoicing, shipping, accounts receivable, correspondence, answering telephone inquiries and maintaining client contacts. 20 hours per week. Salary \$10-12K DOE. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to Frameline Distribution Assistant, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, EOE. (34)

Grassroots Organizer. Proven organizer needed for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Work at state and local level in the areas of civil rights, sodomy repeal, military and anti-gay/lesbian violence. Salary range \$28,000-35,000 plus generous benefits. Cover letter and resume by Feb. 21 to: NGLTFPI, Attn: Grassroots Organizer Search, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. An EEO. (35)

Houseman. Young, honest, hard-working houseman wanted by retired professional single man in Palm Springs for part-time job: four hours per day to clean house, care for yard and pool. Small salary plus free use of separate one-bedroom fur-

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nished condo. Extra salary and possible full-time job if you have driving, cooking, massage or other skills. After six months I will pay for your books and tuition at local college if you want further education. References required. ♀ 156. (35)

Interns. *Harper's Magazine* is accepting applications from college students and graduates for its internship program. Interns serve full time on an unpaid basis for three to five months and get practical experience in critical reading and analysis, research, fact-checking, and the general workings of a national magazine. Each intern works with an editor on one section of the magazine, takes part in the creation of the *Harper's Index*, and is encouraged to generate ideas, read widely, and approach problems creatively. For further information and an application, call 212-614-6500. (35)

Medical/clinical administrator. New clinic. Community clinic knowledge helpful. Manager/nursing background a plus. Knowledge of procedure mandatory. Experienced only. Computer experience. Motivated and organized. Don Levy, 213-259-5675. (34)

More and more men look great today. Do you look better? LPI wants only the best. We are the pinnacle of male erotic publishing because we only photograph the best men. If you're endowed, handsome, and glad to show it, call us. Dial 213-871-1225 x235 and speak with our Director of Photography. He can arrange an appointment in L.A. or put you in touch with our regional network of quality photographers. You must be 18 years of age or older. We're always considering new members for our national network of photographers. Please send samples of your work to: Director of Photography, LPI, Box 371, Los Angeles, CA 90078. (35)

Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call the Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Coordinator. Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, a Los Angeles-based non-profit agency, is currently seeking to fill the position of Project Coordinator for its Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education and care. The Project Coordinator will oversee the operation of all program components for the eight member consortium. The qualified applicant will also develop media strategies, act as link between consortium

members, public, private and community health organizations, and should also have fund raising and public relations skills. A college degree is desirable. However, individuals with relevant experience and a strong commitment to fighting AIDS/HIV among people of color are encouraged to apply. The annual salary for this position is \$24,000 (70% time). Please send cover letter and resume to: Phill Wilson, Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. 213-666-5495. (35)

Project Director. The San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS is accepting resumes for the position of Project Director for the Rafiki Services Project, a program to train volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to African Americans with HIV/AIDS. People of color, sexual minorities, women, disabled people and HIV infected people are encouraged to apply. For more information call 415-346-2364 or write to 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115. (35)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1½ bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, private room with telephone jack and wired for cable. \$400/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (34)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Front Room Theatre, Seattle's theatre by

and about lesbians, will be accepting scripts for consideration in January, February, and March of 1992. We are seeking scripts by lesbians, with lesbian character(s) and theme. We aim to produce two or three shows a season during '92 and '93, with at least one play per season by and about lesbians of color. We would also love to produce one or more musicals per season. Sharpen your pencils and limber up your word processors, sisters! For submission details, call 206-233-8457. Mail scripts to FRT, 1202 E. Pike #935, Seattle, WA 98122. (35)

Unpublished work wanted for anthology, "Snap! Black Gays and Lesbians Tell It!" Looking for quality and style on a n-y aspect of black gay and lesbian life: first-person essays, fiction (7 pages maximum double-spaced), interviews of non-celebrities (elders particularly desired). There will be no response without an SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with adequate postage. Also, if possible, provide black and white photograph of yourself. Example topics: work, God, coming out, masturbation, fashion, language and music, food, Momma, houseparties, divas, bars, the streets and the news, dental dams, answering machines...life! Send to: Terri Jewell Box 23154, Lansing, MI 48909. (35)

Encyclopedia articles needed. Collier Books division of MacMillan Publishing has decided to bring out a \$20, 650-page trade paperback *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* for a mass readership, to be sold in every corner bookstore. It will be based on Garland Publications' 2-volume *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, abridged, revised, and with the addition of new entries. I am looking for scholars interested in writing short pieces for the new work on areas in which they are or could become knowledgeable. The emphasis will be on basic facts, with some discussion of theories, but with a minimum of ideology and abstruse academic controversies; on language accessible to the average reader, and on topics of general rather than purely scholarly interest. Not only will new subjects be covered (we will especially need biographical entries on living people and geographical-historical entries on cities and countries), but replacements will be sought for some of the entries in the Garland work. I especially want to encourage women, bisexuals, and members of minority groups to contribute. Some suggested entry topics (new and replacements) include: African-Americans, Alvin Ailey, S.R. Delaney, interracial, B. Rustin, Bessie Smith (write for full list to date). If you are interested in submitting a new entry, or believe you can improve on any existing entry in the Garland volumes, please contact: Stephen Donaldson, Editor-in-Chief, CEOH, 3147 Broadway #12A, New York, NY 10027. 212-666-0344. (35)

Conference Paper submissions. "Making It Perfectly Queer," the second national

interdisciplinary graduate student conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2-4, 1992. Presentations should be 8-10 pages long. People of color are encouraged to both submit proposals and attend the conference. Please submit 1-page proposals for paper by January 15, 1992, to: Cris Mayo, Department of Education Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 360 Education Bldg., 1310 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61801. (35)

Fiction, poetry, short dramas wanted. Anthology of creative writing by young gays, lesbians, and bisexuals seeks submissions. The anthology, *From Now On*, is committed to principles of balance: between men and women, among all races and ethnicities, and to artistic balance of genres, and will also consider previously published work. Send submissions with SASE and short bio to: Michael Lowenthal, Box A-164, Hanover, NH 03755. (35)

Essay contest. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Los Angeles, in support of Coming Out Day, October 11th, is sponsoring an essay contest for a first person account of a coming out experience. The coming out experience may be the writer's own or a significant person in their life, i.e. a sibling, parent or friend. The contest winners will receive cash awards of \$500, \$300, \$200 and will be announced at the PFLAG 16th year birthday party in May 1992. The contest is open to all Los Angeles County college students. People of color are encouraged to apply. For information call 213-373-4387 or write: PFLAG Essay Contest, Box 701, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. (35)

Looking for another L.L. Cool J. Queen Latifah, Markey Mark or Keith Sweat. Soliciting gay/queer-positive rap/industrial/ballads. Send demo tapes, lyric sheets to: Precipice Demos, 975 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131. (35)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteless work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

FOR SALE

Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (35)

For the gentleman—handmade traditional, African designs. Write Ankh Enterprises, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Classified Ad Form

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

Please print and sign where indicated. None of this information will appear in your ad, but our lawyers tell us we must have it on file. "I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications."

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 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____

Signed _____

Write the text of your ad here:

☐ Check here if you would like BLK to forward responses to your printed personal ad to you for FREE.

FREE TALKING PERSONALS

You may place a printed personal ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE if you also place a FREE message on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS. Call toll-free 1-800-937-7928 to record your personal greeting. Your FREE ad and FREE personal greeting may not include a phone number or address.

If you want an ad longer than 30 words or want to include your phone number or address in your ad, please use the paid ad section of this form.

When you record your FREE personal greeting, you will be assigned a mailbox number. Write that number in the space below. Next, write the text of your ad in the space above. Your FREE printed ad will run in BLK for three issues.

You may listen to the messages left for you on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS line by calling 1-900-933-4630. The charge is only 55¢ per minute.

What is your mailbox number?

_____ (required)

PAID CLASSIFIED ADS (DO NOT USE FOR TALKING PERSONALS)

Personals which don't qualify for free and all other ads (except employment) are paid at the rate of 40¢ per word. Employment ads are 10¢ per word. Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Minimum for credit card billing is \$15. Do not send cash. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad.

You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals \$15 or more. Call toll-free 1-800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

Name of credit card _____
 Expires _____
 Credit card number _____



_____ words at 40¢	\$ _____
_____ words at 10¢ (employment only)	\$ _____
Cost to run your ad one month	\$ _____
Number of times you want your ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	\$ _____
Phone verification at \$3 (within California \$1)	\$ _____
24-issue subscription at \$30	\$ _____
12-issue subscription at \$18	\$ _____
Total enclosed (send no cash)	\$ _____

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Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (35)

Skins, the lanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042. State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femal Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (37)

Come relax and enjoy a professional full body massage by a caring young black male in a private, safe environment. Great massage, reasonable rates. Jack, 213-419-1145. (37)

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, \$5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Date by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-

900-726-2040 (\$2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/six months, \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal, all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. #1035. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. #145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

BGM, slightly chubby, cut, 23 yrs, 6'4", closeted. You must be cut, hung 8", masculine, muscular, single, tall (6'+), coffee-dark skin, age 25-40, HIV-/no AIDS unless celibate, like black gay porn. You must be in San Francisco, Washington D.C., L.A., or Texas area. Dele Alade, 88 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (36)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded, very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Allan, 8 Passage Lathuille, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black

male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. #1019. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

White buns seek hung black stud who, like myself, is HIV-, drug free, sincere. Age, looks unimportant. I'm 5'8", 150, mature, live near Oakland. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (35)

My black playmate has moved away and I need to suck black dick on regular basis. Am WM, goodlooking, fit, HIV-. Your place, some weekdays OK. Write Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (35)

GWM, 40s, 6', 180#, HIV+, 8", blond, blue, wants GBM into kinky imaginative scenes, making love, exhibitionism, voyeurism, nasty letters, phone sex, open. Write 1800 Market St. #230, San Francisco, 94102. (35)

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, home-bodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. #1047. (35)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. #1000. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. #1045. #141. (35)

San Diego Area

Mature, professional, fun-loving GBM, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B., 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone J/O submissive seeks domina-

tor. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert topman (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, GRP/FrA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GWM top for friendship? Serious replies w/pic/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. #1040. (35)

BBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

WM, 53, 5'9", 170, leather love, Zeff. #3101. (35)

37-year-old blond, 37, 160#, 5'11". William #3113. (35)

Very attractive GWM, 28, 5'10", 175, bibr, looking to meet extremely heavysset black guys (300#+) for really hot times and friendship. Jose Acevedo, 837 Appelly, Venice, CA 90291. #1019. (35)

GWM likes to service black studs with nice firm butts. Sit on my face. Get down and dirty and humiliate me with your manhood. POB 86651, LA, CA 90086. Gruntl (35)

White male, 50s, 6', 179#, seeks relationship. Very affectionate, HIV-. Call Will 818-362-2022, or write Box 1252, San Fernando, CA 91340. (35)

Handsome, educated, successful mulatto, 35, 6'1", 180#, seeks young, gorgeous mulatto playmate/companion. Healthy body a must. Muscles, hung, under 25 a plus. Quality not quantity. 310-301-1666. (35)

Attractive, muscular, European, smart guy, 31, 5'10", 175#, uncut, seeks tall, very muscular and massive, black or white, intelligent bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for body worship, friendship. 213-656-2942. (35)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weightroom. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a +. #1052. (37)

Muscular GBM. Handsome, nice build, 31, 6', 190#. Independent, fun loving and affectionate. Seeking possible relationship. You: 5'9" or taller, nice build, independent

Respond to ads with a ✉ by mail. All mail is forwarded FREE.

Write the ✉ number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:
BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

and seeking same. Call Ryan. ✉ 1001(37)
GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, musical, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. ✉ 3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thing. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. ✉ 3026. (37)
Latino, 31, 6', 185#, looking for BGM 35-45, small built, into ranch S/M, spit, W/S. Please call, sir. 818-284-0770. (35)

Friends, mixed couples, wanted by black/Mexican couple, midforties, for friendship and fun. We enjoy all kinds of movies that could be interchanged. Your picture gets ours. Box 19543, LAX, CA 90019-0543. (35)

My name is Jarvis: BGM, 40, 5'8", 140#. Don't be fooled by my size and age. I work out seriously. Prof. Hobbies: photography, art, philosophical discourse. Ex- and current military guys are a plus. I want a friend who balances intellectual pursuits with physical fitness. ✉ 3027. (37)

An attractive Middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candid, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (35)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a Top sexually. Let me hear from you. ✉ 3031. (37)

BGM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. ✉ 3066. (37)

Black man interested in meeting other third world black men for mutual friendship and more. Your photo gets mine. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (35)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. ✉ 3038. (37)

Built WM, 33, 160#, G/P, masculine yet desire classic feminine role: nurturing, homelike, cooking, cleaning, panties, etc., seeks macho black topman who is confident, affectionate and happy. ✉ 158. (35)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30 yr old BGM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well built brother that's not fem or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and travelling. ✉ 3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine topman, any race. ✉ 3106. (37)

BGM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swim-

mer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. ✉ 3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9½", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. ✉ 3025. (37)

If you're BLK and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim: 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (35)

GWM, handsome senior, top, needs to be body worshipped, submissive OK. Wet tongue, big mouth under 50, any race. No J.O. action only. Be prepared. Give phone # before 10 p.m.: 310-657-2804. (35)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. ✉ 3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. ✉ 1027. ✉ 148. (36)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. ✉ 3100. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped BGM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40+. Let's float, let's glide as inside you I ride. David, Box 84174, L.A. CA 90073. ✉ 1030. (34)

GWM seeks BGM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. Joe. ✉ 1022. ✉ 149. (37)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

BGM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No fats, fems. Photos a plus. ✉ 1020. ✉ 151. (35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-256-6833. (35)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, moustached, professional, easy-going,

sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscular defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must! Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. ✉ 1025. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football-player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, aggressive and versatile for fun and friendship. ✉ 1023. ✉ 153. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive BGM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc. prof. Send # to Box 17006, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Prof. BBM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open. P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A. CA 90078. (35)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncut HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. ✉ 146. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

BGM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. ✉ 1036. (35)

If you're BGM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive BGM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine BGM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist, and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Fat BGM, 18-30, 250+ sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelike, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No y/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Bliff. 213-931-9637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM 30 yrs, quiet type, seeks BGM 25 yrs. ✉ 1008. ✉ 157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O., Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. ✉ 1001. (35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar BGM for friendship. Box 79, Grlton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

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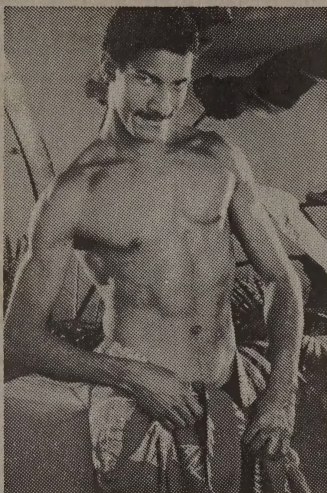
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MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. (36)

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Masculine, hung GBM. POB 10630, Chicago, IL 60610-0630. (35)

J.C. Jr., handsome G/blk/M, seeks pleasure. Write 1607 S. Sawyer, Chicago, IL 60623. (35)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tall and/or into active/passive butt licking. Write: Bob, Box 780744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½ and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, Louisiana 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Cuban for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nights or messages. (35)

GWM, 29, 6'1", 190#, seeks hairy and/or hung BM tops coming to Boston for hot sexual encounters or letter exchange. Tim, Box 718, Sudbury, MA 01776. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ☐ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny 7, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No fats/fems. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff. ☐ 1013. ☐ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Versatile body-builder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211

Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof., clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0009. Peace. (35)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. ☐ 1007. (35)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, indepen-

dent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ☐ 3099. ☐ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

WM 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated GBM seeking same. J.W.D., 1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, HIV+, 60 yr, masculine, average ht and wt, live in DC area, seeking GBM under 40, top or bottom, non-obese, for friendship and possible one-on-one relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. ☐ 1005. (37)

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

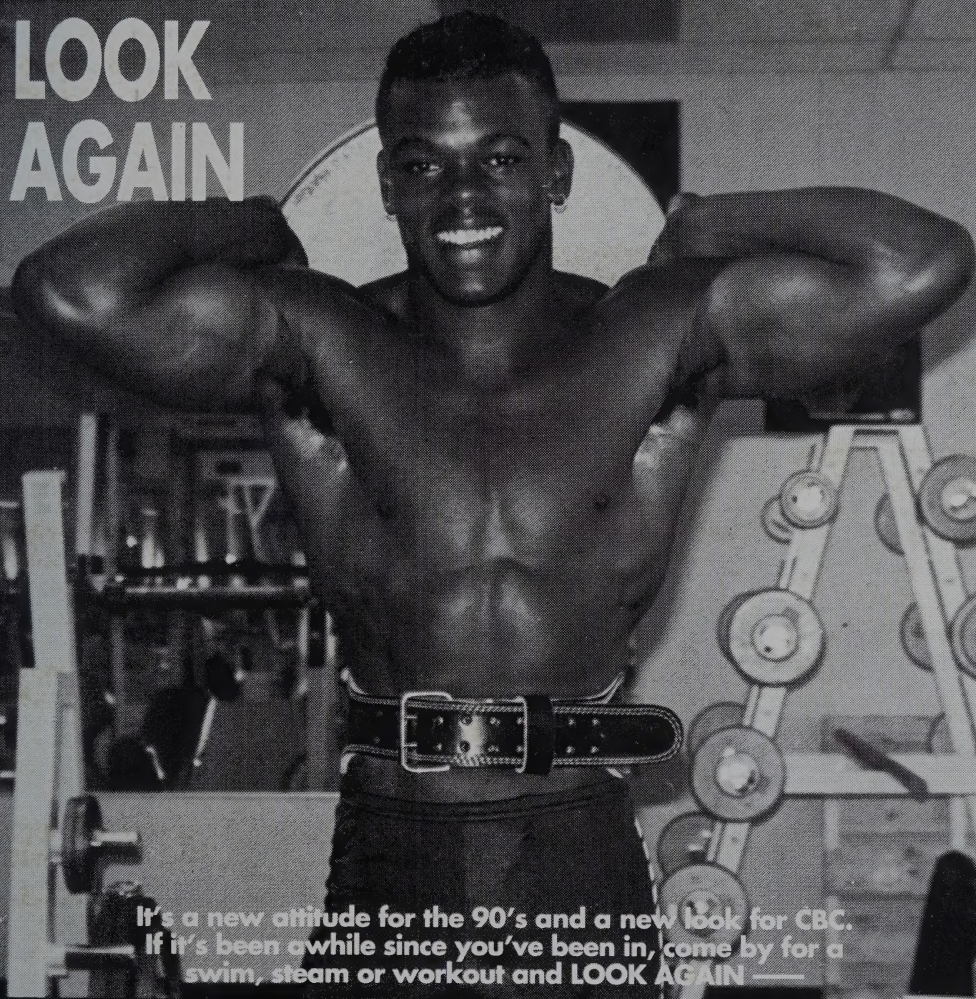
MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)



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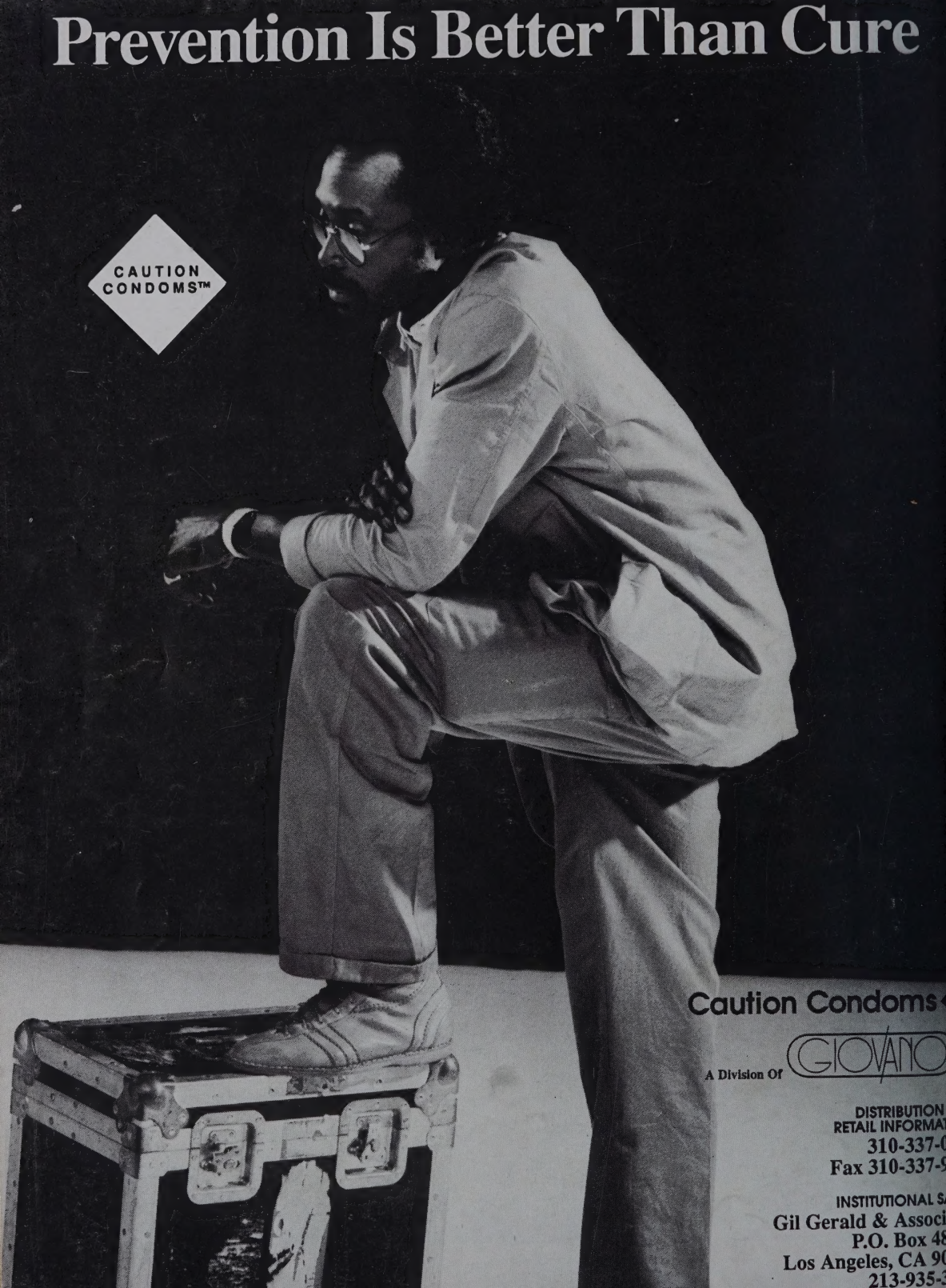
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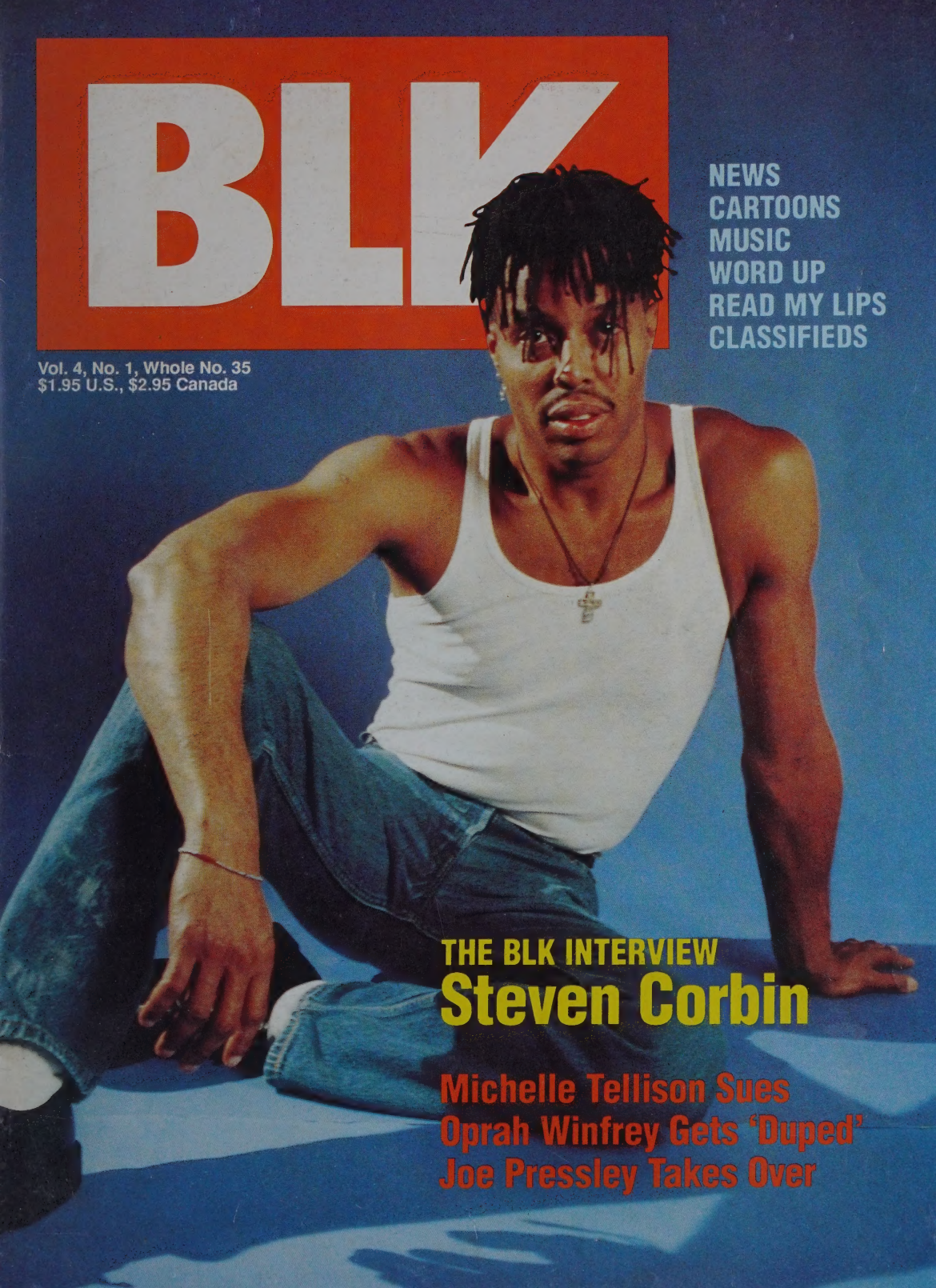
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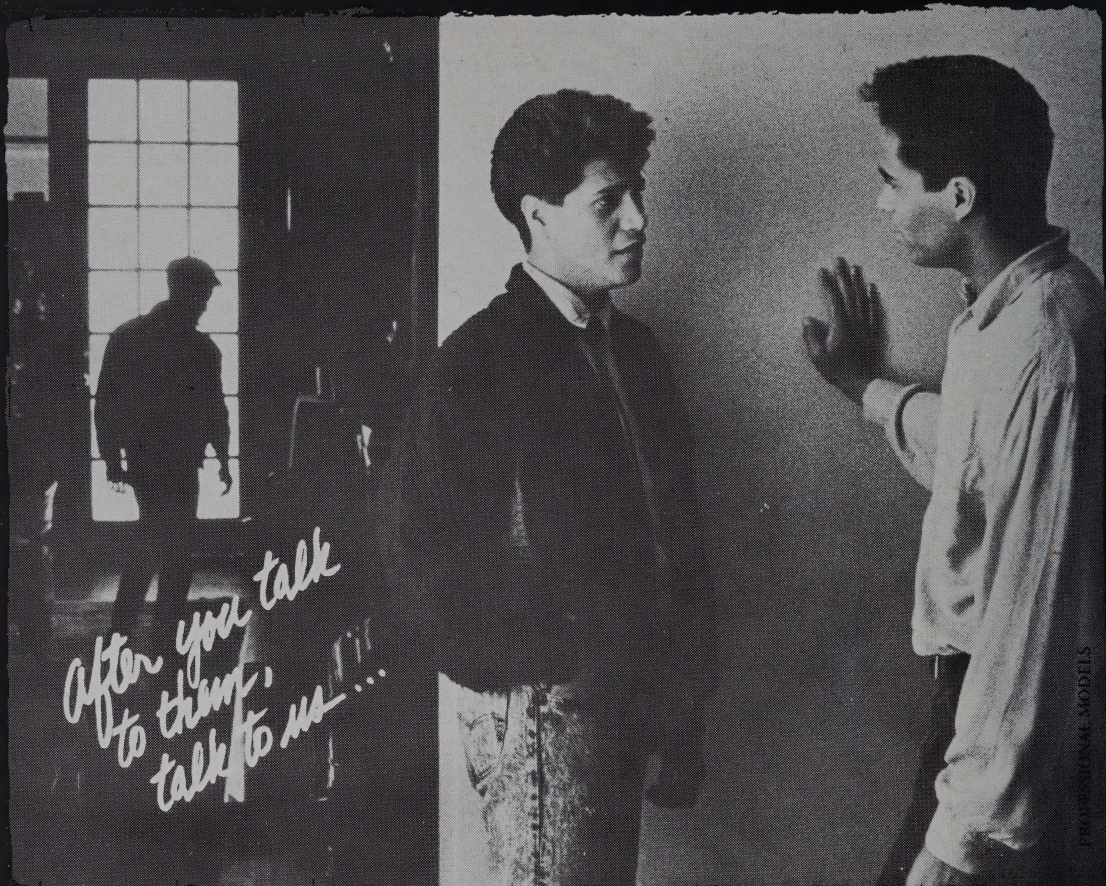


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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEX IN THE BACK SEAT?

A police officer arrested a man for disorderly conduct outside Loretta's, a popular black gay bar in Atlanta.

In routine fashion, she put her prisoner in the rear of her patrol car beside another suspect already in custody. After the officer finished writing her report, she peered inside, and caught the two prisoners having sex.

She promptly charged both men with sodomy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FLORIDA-STYLE

While the nation has recovered from the arrest of Paul Reubens (né Pee Wee Herman) in SARASOTA, other entrapment-style practices across the Sunshine State are still raising eyebrows.

WEST PALM BEACH police, suffering a shortage of black narcotics officers, decided to wear blackface in order to make drug sales. But the scheme failed when no customers bought what the cops were selling.

BROWARD COUNTY Sheriff Nick Navarro is proud to take the cake for homophobia having acquired a hard-headed reputation for relentlessly raiding gay establishments. At least two lawsuits have been filed and 36 accounts of police brutality have been documented. Even the local chapter of the NAACP has complained about the overuse of police dogs on minorities.



Apple



IBM

But the ethics in government award goes to BROWARD COUNTY sheriff's deputy Jeff Willets and wife, Kathy, busted for prostitution, whose little black book might prove more scandalous and name more names than Kitty Kelly. The appropriately titled "vice" mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, Doug Danziger, who campaigned to shut down "adult" businesses, resigned amid speculation that he was among those named in the book.

IBM AND APPLE GO BLACK

There are dog people and cat people. Benz people and Beamer people. But some of the most fierce oneupsmanship is between IBM people and Apple people.

But the arch rivals, who recently announced a joint venture, have come to agree on something else as well.

In the Nov. 11, 1991 issue of *PC Week*, an ad touting Apple products uses a photograph showing a black athlete in mid-air, muscles agleaming.

A few pages later, an IBM ad also uses a photograph of a black athlete—this one from an angle few people ever get to enjoy in their lifetime. It is topped by the headline, "Why be content to run when you can fly?"

There was a time when Madison Avenue sold products by having smiling white women in bathing suits with their heads tilted slightly to the side lightly touch the products. But I like the new black homoeroticism much better.

BLK MAIL

WHO SCREWED (UP) JOE SIMMONS?

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the letters to the editor ["BLK Mail," August, 1991]. One that touched me most was the one written by a brother who had noticed that throughout the filming career of Joe Simmons only once had he been seen getting fucked in the ass by a black man. I've seen him clearly being fucked by white men. Sad but Joe is typical of many thousands of African American males and there is no screen to point out this behavior of the many. We who are black oriented always held the belief that many black bi and gay men put and maintain limitations on what they do sexually with other black men but have no limitations with white men. By the

way, there is a super hung brother who appears in a film called *Darkmen* and *Hammer*. He appears in the same films with blacks but only once in the same cast. I became very upset when once he and another brother were cast together but they never touched each other. Both were working on this one white boy making sure in changing positions that they made no contact. Sorry! All the cotton fields, antebellum homes, Sambo and Mr. Charlie came into view. I really would like others to comment on why so many black men are in this frame of mind. Also, very important is how many so called black heterosexual males are but closets in the images of Joe Simmons and whether or not the A-I-D-S is in the straight black community are not straight after all. I'm afraid we

might have a Joe Simmons crisis whereas these men are having their anuses enlarged with white dicks and returning to the black woman. Now the same men no doubt become very anti black faggot and become very upset if cruised by one.

Bob Stocks

San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Editor:

First and foremost whomever your appointee is does not need their head examined, but the person that wrote that incredibly idiotic letter does. When I read that letter in the August 1991 issue of BLK all I could think was how could they let a letter of that magnitude of stupidity get published. Let me just say that I enjoy your magazine thoroughly and I along with I'm sure many other share this opinion. If the person who wrote that letter had took time out to review their record or even question their interest in the betterment of their education they wouldn't have not written that letter.

Instead of learning the facts they were so quick to call someone an Uncle Tom. To set the record straight, Joe Simmons has bent over for a brother as they put it in his porno films. The title of the film is called *Black Magic*. I am not trying to justify this one occasion as an excuse for Mr. Simmons for not doing it more than once. I am merely responding to the incorrect statement that was made. I quote, "In the 30 plus films I've seen Mr. Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a

white boy, yes several—but not a black man."

In closing, I'd like to say that I really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. I really wouldn't worry about losing this person as a reader because to be frank you really don't need people that idiotic reading your magazine who obviously are too dumb to comprehend it anyway. In the name of black minds and beauty I also bid you peace, love, good luck and high hopes. I also apologize for the stupidity of my fellow brother and as a former New Yorker I hope this has no bearing on us and we should pray for high hopes that their act comes together soon.

Kiburi Lacy

San Francisco, Calif.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES THOMAS

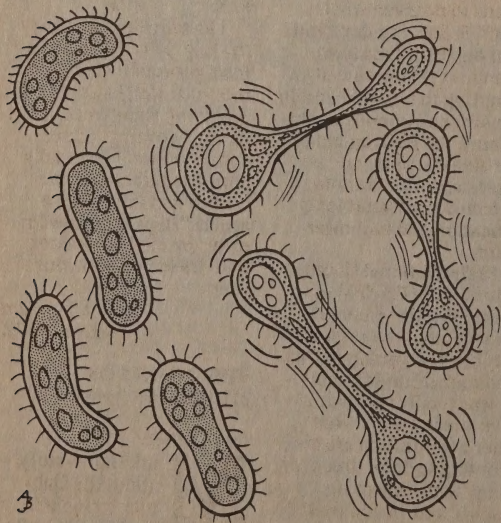
Dear Editor:

I recently read a letter by a James L. Thomas ["BLK Mail," August, 1991] who called the "gay lifestyle" an appalling abomination.

I wonder if this person has ever looked into personal ads, swinger magazines, taken a good look at today's society and I'd like him to know there are millions, upon millions of gay and bisexual people in the USA. I'd like to know what his problem seems to be? If he's so homophobic, why bother to read and write a letter of protest to BLK magazine?

It's 1992 Mr. Thomas let's wake up please, we are in the age of gay and human rights!

Eugene Clarrington
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Black gay publications evolve.

Dear Editor:

James L. Thomas writes, "For a country built on the slogan, 'In God We Trust,' I sometimes wonder what we are coming to."

First, he seems unaware that the slogan, which ironically was the same as that found on Nazi soldiers' belt buckles, was legislated onto our currency during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. The Founding Fathers were deists, not theists.

Second, he admits that "homosexuality is an abomination to God," which points the finger to the root of homophobia: organized Christian religion.

Warren A. Smith
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

This is an immediate response to Minority Business Association President James L. Thomas of Inglewood, Calif., who had the gall to write an ignorant letter to you opposing the issue of AB 101. I hope he reads this.

Well, Mr. Thomas, who the hell do you think you are? Has the Queen of Paradise Island died and left you her throne? Is it your time of the month? Inquiring black gay and lesbian minds would like to know. It's a crying shame that Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a significant stepping stone that would have allowed my California gay and lesbian peers the opportunity to rest a little easier. They'll remember his fucked up stance come the next election. Keep in your non-lubricated mind that anyone who seeks an office will seek the gay and lesbian vote. And now you're up to date, honey.

Furthermore, you're just pouting as if you've stained

your panties that [legislators] Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker supported AB 101. Take your wannabe fundamentalist ass back to your place of worship and learn some sensitivity. (Oh, I forgot, *real* men like you [sike] aren't supposed to be sensitive.) Wake up and sniff your panties because you are not the "T"!

A gay teenager is contemplating suicide this very moment and you have the nerve to criticize. I'm young, (21 years old), black and gay. I love black men, and you'll never have the power to take my love for black men away, suck! I was a lonely gay teenager contemplating suicide, trying to deal with my emotionally and verbally abusive mother, but I survived. I held on to my dreams, I made it to manhood, despite the close-minded homophobia and heterosexism.

I'm thankful for many things, like the fact that here in Chicago, gay and lesbian taxpayers are protected under the law, it's called the Human Rights Ordinance, for your information, sweetheart. You probably don't know your dick from an inchworm and then you have the nerve to spread your stupid ignorance. If you ever come to Chicago trying to publicly denounce gay and lesbian citizens, I'll fuck you up on the spot. You're absolutely hopeless in understanding the love my black gay brothers have for each other. Some people *never* come out! (Hint, hint). Maybe you've been sipping too many strawberry daiquiris with Jwanza Kunjufu. I guess you've been gossiping with Haki Madhubuti too. If you're looking for a cat fight, you've found one here, your internalized homophobia is played out, my brother. You can take

your 8-track tape philosophy and shove it where you know you want to be penetrated.

Antonio Sharp
Chicago, Ill.

'HIGH RISK, LOW PRIORITY' DISSED AND APPLAUDED

Dear Editor:

In response to Michael Broder's article in the July 1991 issue of BLK, I am totally "through"; this article should be entitled "Michael Broder Turns a Totally Blind Eye to The Black Men's Xchange." BMX has provided the only effective culturally sensitive AIDS education and prevention program in the East Bay (which is part of the Bay area by the way) targeting black men who love men, and has been doing so for the past two years, reaching over 400 African-American (black) men. Because of BMX black men are now on AIDS Advisory Boards, involved with community planning councils etc., I think that credit needs to be given where credit is due. I understand that organizations have agendas that they are attempting to broaden, but in the African-American community, the BMX agenda remains the same and is consistent. We promote African-American (black) education and empowerment.

As the National Coordinator for the Black Men's Xchange, I am offended; the work that our organization has been doing in Oakland and around the country was totally ignored. We have already done what other organization are attempting to do or dream of doing, with little or no monies, and we are successful because of the love and commitment that we have for our people. Other

organizations are failing because they are not committed to, or understanding of, the needs of the black community. This love originates in the heart, and is directed at the black community, not the funding source.

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
BMX
Oakland, Calif.

The editor replies: BLK apologizes to BMX and all the other organizations whose AIDS-related work in the black gay community was not mentioned in Michael Broder's article.

A more complete list of AIDS organizations doing work in the black community appears in the BLK List published in these pages periodically.

Dear Editor:

Two years ago while attending the NBGLF in Atlanta I expressed my concerns about the lack of critical articles and coverage of black feminist issues in BLK.

I just finished reading the July '91 issue and was most pleased by the progress your staff has made in providing a more even-handed coverage of our communities. I especially appreciated reading the critical and informative article "High Risk, Low Priority" by Michael Broder. KUDOS to you and your staff.

Skye Ward
Berkeley, Calif.

FIVE-POINTS ON JEFFREY DAHMER

Dear Editor:

Mark Haile's story about the Dahmer incident in Milwaukee, while generally OK, has some serious flaws. As a person who has been

involved in the core of this unfolding story, and the Director of the Hate/Crimes reporting, I would like to correct some points.

a) in my opinion it is an error to call Dahmer a "gay" man. He is homosexual and very confused, but to call him "gay" suggests that he accepts his sexuality...it is clear that he didn't.

b) it is totally incorrect to state that Milwaukee is a city not known for its tolerance. Do we forget history so quickly? Wisconsin was the first state to include sexual orientation in its non discrimination policies 9 years ago. Milwaukee passed its own version as well. The religious community here helped make that happen. I will not say that there are not problems with racism and homophobia, but the leadership of this community is very open.

c) the phrase "homosexual overkill" was indeed used, however, after the Dahmer story broke, within less than 48 hours the media were NOT using the term because several of us in the leadership of the community confronted it and it was stopped, cold!

d) Milwaukee has one of the best informed media in America. All major media here have undergone "sensitivity training" sessions many years ago. The media has NOT "played up the murders as a logical extension of homosexual behavior," as you suggest. Rather, one talk show host, Mark Belling, who caters to the lunatic fringe right wing made that statement. No one else in the media here supported it. Quite to the contrary, the coverage and sensitivity by the media to gays and lesbians was exemplary!

e) And, while there certainly is homophobia and racism in the Milwaukee Police Department, it is

vital to know that all cadets of the past 5+ years have been exposed to some gay/lesbian sensitivity training. On top of that, the Command Staff, lead by Chief Phillip Arreola, had already been reaching out to the gay/lesbian community to implement cultural awareness training to all line officers and command staff before Dahmer.

Ralph F. Navarro
Milwaukee, Wis.

The editor replies: Ralph Navarro's hometown pride is commendable if somewhat overwrought, and his need to defend media which partially responded to the local lesbian and gay community's consciousness-raising is understandable. But Milwaukee's press set the initial tone for nationwide media coverage and subsequent damage control was inadequate. a) We agree that Dahmer doesn't accept his homosexuality. b) Milwaukee's record on gay issues does not, to us, obviate its mediocre record on racial issues. c) You cannot put the genie of media homophobia back in the bottle. d) and e) Glad to hear it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 35

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ON THE COVER: Steven Corbin. Photo by Bruce Hunt.

BLK PEOPLE

SAN FRANCISCO Rev. Jesse Jackson urged the lesbian and gay community to remain calm in response to the veto of California's AB101 anti-discrimination law. He spoke to several thousand at a Castro St. rally.

HOUSTON Martha Wash struck it up at Heaven Oct. 5.

NEW YORK Tito Antonio Davis appeared in concert at Outmusic Coffeehouse Dec. 15.

ATLANTA Darryl Walker was profiled in the Aug. 29 issue of Southern Voice.

LOS ANGELES Rev. George A. Stallings celebrated the inaugural mass for his new Imani Temple/Los Angeles Nov. 10.

CHICAGO Pangea and Clubhouse co-owners Robert Yeaworth and Sam Davis were named "Owners of the Year" by the Mr. Windy City competition.

PHOENIX Mr. Q stripped down to a G at GB's Rendezvous—and will probably do it again.

SARATOGA, Calif. Black Men's Xchange co-founder Cleo Manago led a "Confronting Racism" workshop at the 14th annual California Men's Conference. He also appeared with Dr. Hawkins Mitchell in Friday night's opening ceremonies.

WASHINGTON Stephen Bridges, 28, a volunteer with the Inner City AIDS Network who plays classical violin in his spare time, was profiled in the *Washington Blade* recently.

DALLAS Chris Dickerson, former Mr. America, Mr.

Universe and Mr. Olympia, was a guest poser and judge at the "Night of Pride" Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships in September. Dickerson has also made guest appearances at the Arcadia Championships in San Francisco and the Gay Games in Vancouver.

LOS ANGELES Marlon T. Riggs was presented with a "Distinguished Documentary Award" by the International Documentary Association Nov. 1. He was honored for *Color Adjustment*.

NEW YORK *Spin Cycle* by Aaron Burch, *Chasing the Moon* by Dawn Suggs and *Diotima* by Jack Waters were featured at the Fifth New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival in September.

AMHERST, Mass. Nuru-dafina Pili Abena performed at the second annual Northampton/Amherst Lesbian Festival recently.

CHICAGO Sydney Johnson was crowned Mr. Rainbow Revue in September.

HOUSTON World heavyweight champ George Foreman donated \$100,000 to the AIDS Foundation of Houston in September.

WASHINGTON Cindy Smith was elected president of the Black Lesbian Support Group at a meeting held Sept. 14.

NEW YORK Michael Cummings, whose African-inspired quilts fetch up to \$10,000 apiece—was profiled in the *New York Times*.

TACOMA Sgt. Perry Watkins was featured on BET's *Our Voices* in September.

SAN FRANCISCO Dr. Hawkins Mitchell completed a three-part series about his

Dream Lodge, a self-improvement workshop.

NEW YORK Connie Lofton appeared at Outmusic Coffeehouse Nov. 17.

PHILADELPHIA Rebecca Helem and Jon Ross were elected to the 15-member board of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride of Delaware Valley.

DALLAS Cody West took first place in the light heavyweight division at the North American Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships Sept. 20.

NEW YORK Sandra J. Lowe, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been named director of the Governor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

CHICAGO First-time author Kikki Baker was profiled in the Advocate. Her *In the Game* has just been

released by Naiad Press.

LONDON Whitney Houston made a surprise appearance at an AIDS march organized by the Brent HIV Centre.

LOS ANGELES Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Zachary have completed a mural on the west wall of the Minority AIDS Project. The project was commissioned by the Social and Public Art Resource Center.

SAN DIEGO Openly gay Stan Lewis has been appointed council representative by newly elected City Councilmember Valerie Stallings.

NEW YORK Gary Paul Wright appears at Outmusic Coffeehouse in January.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. E. Lloyd Napier and the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble staged *A Song for My Brother*.



"In the sixties it was the Chicago 7, in the seventies it was the Jackson 5, in the eighties it was the Frustaci 7, and in the ninties it's Nonoxynol 9."

ers last month.

HOUSTON Michelle Parkerson screened several of her documentaries at the Museum of Fine Arts in November.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Marjorie Hill spoke at Jewel's Catch One recently in an event organized by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

NEW YORK Gerideau displayed his female illusions at Sweetwater's in November.

DALLAS Jerome Palmer won the Ms. Butch Desert Moon contest in September.

ATLANTA Mayor Maynard Jackson withdrew an Honorary Citizenship award after he found out the woman to receive it had been a man before a 1974 sex change operation.

CHICAGO Essex Hemphill appeared with Alison Bechdel celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Gerber/Hart Library Oct. 25.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis performed at A Different Light Bookstore in December.

WASHINGTON Melvin Dixon, Essex Hemphill, Assotto Saint, Joseph Corman, Larry Ferguson, Steve Langley and Harry Lewis were among those honored at a reception sponsored by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Black and White Men Together/DC and the Encore Social Club.

NEW YORK Pepper La Beija hosted "A Night of Fabulous Fakes" at the Apollo Theater on Nov. 2.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. Lyle Ashton Harris was one of the participants in "Disputed Identities" a survey of photographs mounted at the California Museum of Photography.

LOS ANGELES Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens facilitated a workshop, "Healing Your Inner Child," in September.

WASHINGTON Dr. Ron Simmons was the guest of Leonard Green on Ch. 32's Talk TV Nov. 1.

PORTLAND, Ore. Clodie Wright, 60, was profiled in the Oct. issue of *Just Out*.

NEW YORK Cheryl Clarke and Donald Woods helped launch the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library with an evening of readings Oct. 23.

OAKLAND Corey Davis, a 22-year-old novice teacher was profiled in *San Francisco Examiner*.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan was honored by the *Los Angeles Sentinel* as one of the newspaper's "Community Service Honorees."

WASHINGTON Mandy Carter was recently named to the board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

SAN FRANCISCO Marilyn, who finds "the curve of her waist" her favorite part of a woman's body, appeared unclothed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *On Our Backs*.

SEATTLE Gwen Hall was named to the Interim Coordinating Committee of the National March on Washington.

WASHINGTON Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr., Penn State's assistant director of religious affairs, urges black churches to drop moral judgements about PWAs and become more involved in prevention. "Black churches can learn from the gay community's response in this area," he said.

LOS ANGELES Monica Palacios takes her show, *Latin Lezbo Comic* to the Celebration Theatre through Jan. 5.

MIAMI John Minnis, winner of \$100,000 in the Star

Search '91 "Best Male Vocalist" competition, performed at Uncle Charlie's Oct. 11.

NEW YORK DiAna DiAna and Dr. Bambi Sumpter were the subject of a video shown at the Center in November.

SAN FRANCISCO Wayne Corbitt performed in *Blackbirds Boogie* at Josie's in October and at the New Lagton Arts in November.

NEW YORK Alice Walker read from her new book of poems, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, at the 92nd St. Y's Poetry Center Oct. 7.

LOS ANGELES Bobby Smith, office manager for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Clinic, was profiled in the Sept./Oct. *AHF Caregiver*.

CHICAGO Sgt. Perry Watkins, who recently won his battle with the U.S. Army after being dismissed because he was gay, spoke at the Rodde Center Oct. 13.

SACRAMENTO Christine Adams-Tripp, Phill Wilson and Wendell Carmichael were named to serve on a HIV Anti-Discrimination Task Force formed by California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

SAN FRANCISCO Gregory Adams, an AIDS educator, fundraiser and erotic movie star, was honored by the Shanti Project at a dinner and ceremony Oct. 3.

LOS ANGELES Jennifer Holliday performed Dec. 7 at Probe's Anniversary Party.

WASHINGTON After a three-year search, Rev. David G. Morrow has been picked to succeed Dr. James Tinney as head of Faith Temple.

LOS ANGELES Larry Pickens, lover of L.A. School Boardmember Jeff Horton, had his own public coming out in a well-done interview

in the *Los Angeles Times*.

OAKLAND Dr. Germán Maisonet spoke at Providence Hospital Oct. 25 on "African-American Men Living in the Age of AIDS." His talk was sponsored by the African-American AIDS, Support-Services and Survival Institute.

NEW YORK Choreographer David Rousseve was profiled both in the *Washington Blade* and in the *Advocate* recently.

PHILADELPHIA Horace Godwin co-facilitated a retreat, "Personal Power for the Gay '90s: A Weekend Retreat in the Poconos" Sept. 27-29.

WASHINGTON Venus Thrash and Stuart Adams discussed images of black lesbians and gay men in the straight black press with Barry Murray, editor of the *Capitol Spotlight* and Deborah Tang, director of news and public affairs for BET at a panel discussion Sept. 9. The meeting was hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, GLAAD/DC and moderated by Sabrina Sojourner.

SAN DIEGO Terri Mason was featured in a concert of his own works at First Unitarian Church Nov. 16. Also on the program were Preston Rawlings, Regina Anderson, Deborah McClelland and Marietta Clewis.

LOS ANGELES Carlton Wilborn performed in Alan Bowne's *Beirut* in September.

PORTLAND La Tricia Ransom and Milo were featured in a coming out article in the October issue of *Just Out*.

LOS ANGELES Comedienne Karen Williams was the Friday night M.C. at the second annual Women's Fun Festival Sept. 20-22. She was also profiled in the *Advocate* recently.

BLK

News magazine for the black lesbian and gay community

In publication since December 1988

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Outside U.S., add \$11 per year payable in U.S. funds only

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Poetry journal for the black lesbian and gay community

In publication since spring 1991

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Erotic magazine for black lesbians

In publication since spring 1991

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BLACKfire

Erotic magazine featuring black men

Publication date March 1992

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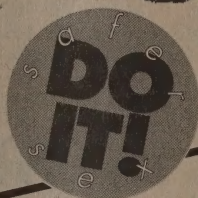
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Having fun doesn't mean you have to be unsafe. Use your imagination. Surely you haven't tried everything.

If you run out of ideas, ask your partner for suggestions or come to one of our workshops on eroticizing safer sex. Learn some creative alternatives for keeping sex safe, fun and exciting. (And remember, alcohol and drugs affect your judgment.)



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A I D S 10 YEARS

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Michelle Tellison had endured enough. Cerebral Palsy had left her in need of a wheel chair for most of her life. In 1980, Tellison began using MetroLift, a special program of Houston's Metro Transit System for handicapped or disabled people providing curb-to-curb service.

In 1985, Tellison began to have problems with drivers for the transit system—nationally considered one of the worst in the country in terms of service—

another company, Eagle Paratransit.

Tellison said the judge got "a real earful," as Frye described Tellison's experiences.

"Specifically, Michelle is being preached religion, and church, and interpretation of sin, and the Bible, by employees of a tax-supported agency. That tax-supported agency, supported by one percent of your eight-percent sales tax, is Metro. She is being told what she can and cannot read. She is being asked

Black Lesbian Seeks \$10 Million in Damages from City Transit System

after publishing an article that called for the formation of a support group for disabled lesbians and gay men.

Tellison had difficulties with drivers taking her to, or picking her up from Houston women's bars. The drivers would openly make comments about lesbians and sex, threatening to curtail service for her because of ticketing irregularities, and one time driving off and leaving her stranded after she had fallen out of her wheelchair.

This abuse led to Houston attorney Phyllis Frye filing suit against the Metro Transit System for \$10,000 in Harris County State District Court. Twenty-nine incidents were described in the lawsuit.

After the third court room hearing, Frye refiled the discrimination suit, asking for damages of \$10,000,000, after the harassment continued despite an order from the judge prohibiting it. Frye, a long-time champion for lesbian and gay legal issues, refused to be daunted after transit officials were unable to provide positive identification in naming the drivers, delaying the trial. Part of the difficulty as well was proving to the judge that the harassment was legally definable

questions or subjected to comments about sex, sexuality, sexual partners and desires to have sex. All of this goes on while she is a captive passenger on the MetroLift vans."

After Tellison discovered her name on a list of clients of MetroLift to be singled out for harassment, Frye went back into court to obtain photos of the drivers involved, who routinely covered up their name badges to prevent being identified.

The injunction prohibited Metro—and all its contractors—from subjecting her to obscene or rude remarks in conversation; from restricting her choice of reading material; from harassing her in regard to the lawsuit; handling her wheelchair in anything other than a normal manner; from obscuring their identification; and required that they follow company policy in providing service and collecting fares, regardless of where she

chooses to go, or her lifestyle.

"She ought to be treated like anyone else," said Judge David West of the 269th District Court.

Tellison works for a United Way agency. Metro



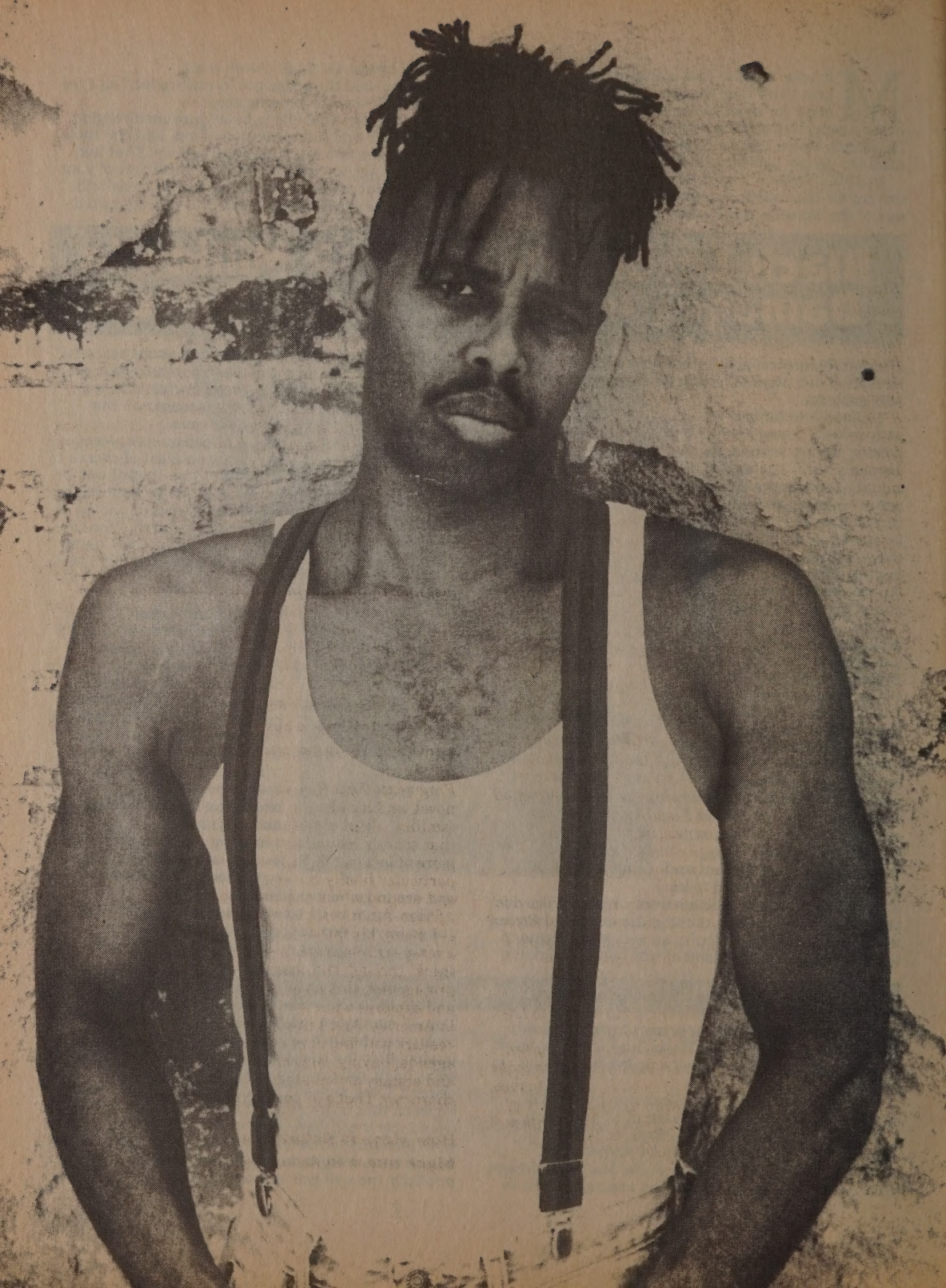
BY MARK HAILE

as discrimination based on being physically handicapped, which is illegal in Texas, and not as a result of her being gay, which is not a protected class in that state.

Frye retorted, that if her client was not handicapped, she "wouldn't have been in this position."

Judge Jack O'Neill ruled in favor of Tellison in June of 1988, after Metro lawyers argued they weren't liable for the behavior of the MetroLift drivers because the van service had been contracted out to

Transit continues to insist that no harassment ever took place. Metro's lawyer Dennis Gardner was quoted after the trial as having said, "It sounds to me we're being ordered to keep from doing what we weren't doing anyway. There's nothing inconsistent between that order and our customary policy, so I would say it will have no impact." Metro attorneys were also unsuccessful in getting a gag order placed on the case, sought due to the substantial local publicity the suit was attracting.



STEVEN CORBIN

by Larry Duplechan

I first became aware of Steven Corbin in 1989, when a friend recommended Corbin's first novel, *No Easy Place To Be*, in response to my oft-repeated complaint of the lamentable dearth of fiction by black gay male writers. Corbin's story of a close-knit, talented, but troubled black family set during the Harlem Renaissance, involved and moved me, and the dust jacket photograph of the handsome author intrigued me. At the same time, I simmered with professional jealousy over the novel's cross-over success (which success has eluded my own work) and Corbin's relative financial good fortune (I'd heard through the publishing grapevine that Corbin's advance for his first novel had been more than double what I'd received for my third).

I met Steven in November of 1990, when we both appeared on a panel of black male writers for the Los Angeles Afro-American Museum. Struck by his deep-chested, tight-T-shirted physique, 100-watt smile and wide-open personality, coupled with his professed admiration for my second novel, *Blackbird*, I found Steven Corbin impossible to dislike, his relative success notwithstanding. At the end of the panel, we exchanged telephone numbers and promised to keep in touch—a Los Angeles tradition—but, in another L.A. tradition, we didn't.

We crossed paths again nearly a year later, in October of 1991, at the Black Gay Men's Retreat sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. There, in an atmosphere of (for me, at least) unprecedented openness and sharing in a group of 30 black gay men, Steven and I again expressed our mutual admiration and our desire to pursue a friendship. We have since exchanged countless telephone answering machine messages, one L.A. version of pursuing a friendship.

When I heard BLK was planning an interview with Steven Corbin, I requested the assignment and Steven readily accepted. I found it encouraging that when I called Steven to set a date for the interview, we conversed for nearly an hour, just chatting.

Jersey City born, Steven ("That's Steven, with a VEE," he told me, never Steve) Corbin moved to Los Angeles in 1975 to attend USC's film school, intending to become a screen writer and film maker. The realization that the sort of film he longed to make would likely never be produced in Hollywood's movie industry, and his better-late-than-never discovery of black novelists such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and especially James Baldwin, led him to fiction writing.

His first novel, *No Easy Place To Be* was published by Simon and Shuster, to critical acclaim and sufficient sales to make him a relative rarity—a novelist without a day job after only one novel. His second novel, *Fragments That Remain*, will be published this spring by London's GMP.

I interviewed Steven on a crisp, unusually clear Sunday afternoon, in the sparsely furnished living room of his home, half of a 1910 vintage house-cum-duplex in the Los Feliz area. The occasional tumbleweed of dog hair skittered across the hardwood floor, courtesy of Sebastian, a large German shepherd given to sniffing at my tape recorder and crotch. Steven sprawled in a large armchair, booted feet up on an ottoman, eyes at half mast, having been awake for some thirty straight hours due to a 10 p.m.-to-10 a.m. shift working the coat room at an all-night underwear party at the Probe. Notwithstanding his allegation that he looked "like shit," my subject looked just fine, thank you, in a sleepy, dishevelled sort of way and despite his weariness, proved more articulate and interesting than most mortals at their very best, gesturing expressively with his hands, often tugging at his headful of dreads while considering a question.

About your upcoming novel, *Fragments That Remain*: tell me what you want BLK's reading audience to know about this book.

Fragments That Remain is a complex and layered novel, and it's about a lot of things: it's about families, about a dysfunctional family (and I know that sounds redundant). But I think what would be more of interest to BLK readers is that, in this particular family the son who is the pivotal character and around whom the entire story is told, is an African-American gay man who, among other things—I mean, his father is dying—he's also coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white lover. So, I think, through the character of Schuyler, my protagonist, this novel, in part, examines and probes and explores what it means to grow up a black queer in America. And I think that's something BLK readers will find very relevant in terms of their own agenda, having some of our collective anguish and joy and ecstasy articulated through this particular character. That's in part what I was trying to do.

How close is Schuyler's experience as a black queer in America to yours?

Close in some ways and not so close in others. I think, in terms of experiencing racism, in all forms—in terms of growing up in a certain culture, and dealing with it also on a more painful level in the gay community, is an experience which is very similar to mine. So I know that I use a lot of my own reactions, experiences, contemplations, through this character.

Tell me about your experience of racism in the gay community.

Well, the gay community, as far as I see it, is sort of a microcosm of the larger society which has bred it. And I have dealt with a lot of pain in dealing with racism in the gay community, on many levels. On personal levels, in terms of dating white guys, dating non-black people in the gay community, and becoming aware of how some attitudes are still pretty ... unsophisticated, for lack of a better word. For instance, some white guys that I have dated, a lot of white guys that I've met, especially in this town (Los Angeles), I've felt, in large part, were going out with me as a black man for all the wrong reasons. That's another one of the things I'm dealing with in *Fragments*. Not all the wrong reasons, but certainly some of those reasons.

What are some of the wrong reasons for dating a black man?

In terms of having their own stereotypical ideas about who black men are: their prowess, their virility, their backgrounds. Certain assumptions that are made about you because you are black—

Such as?

Well—and this really sounds far-fetched, but I've heard stuff like this: "I would imagine that you were raised without a father in the house, because most black women, statistically, raise their children that way, in a fatherless home." Stuff like that. Or, I had a white guy tell me once that he'd always thought that every black person, in terms of physical attraction, liked any white person they could get, because that was some kind of status symbol. Like, if you could attain *this*, then you're sort of special.

Do you think that particular stereotype is entirely unfounded?

No, it's not entirely unfounded. But, I think what's disturbing about it is to make the assumption which is based on a stereotype. And, ironically enough, my parents separated when I was about 11, so half of my life I was raised in a fatherless home. But still...

Some of the other racism we deal with in the gay community, that I especially experience—because I'm a political activist—is in terms of organizations. Again, under the larger umbrella of the gay

community, there is a lot of dissension. And a lot of it is racist. And you'll hear things go down in ACT-UP that are racist, in a very subtle way. Like, a black woman might get up and talk about AIDS in the black community. And, of course, blacks and Latinos are the people who are getting AIDS now, those numbers are soaring. Ten white guys get up and walk out of the meeting.

Meaning they just didn't give a fuck?

They didn't want to hear that. It's not their problem. Let those black people get their own shit together, that's not our concern.

Last week, we were voting on a demonstration which is coming up...which coincides with the week-end of Oakland [the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and the National Cultural Gathering and Retreat]. And so, people were making comments on the floor that the demonstration coincides with that, and maybe black people and other people of color would want to attend. And you could hear people in the room going [he heaves a big sigh, rolls his eyes upward]. That's racist to me.

Which is one of the reasons it's really important for me to be a member of something like ACT-UP, because it's important, I think for us to be visible in organizations such as ACT-UP. So there's that kind of racism.

There's the racism of quiet quotas. Blacks couldn't get into a club after a certain number were in. You got hassled, you got asked for two or three pieces of I.D. Look at our [gay] literature, look at our magazines, our newsletters. Who represents the gay community on the cover of *Edge* every time you look at it, or the cover of *Frontiers*. It's never us. And they call themselves, presumptuously enough, the nation's leading gay magazine. And that's an insult to us and lesbians, as well. They don't deal with any women's issues, they don't deal with any lesbian issues.

Frontiers, you're talking about?

Frontiers and Edge. *Frontiers*, for instance, will have Latino boys on the cover, but who knows they're Latino? They're the most Caucasoid looking, non-threatening, non-swarthy Latino men they could find. And there's something wrong with that.

My brother, who is not gay, but is, obviously, black, once said something to me that's always stuck with me. He said he has trouble dealing with most white men, because white men act as if the world belongs to them.

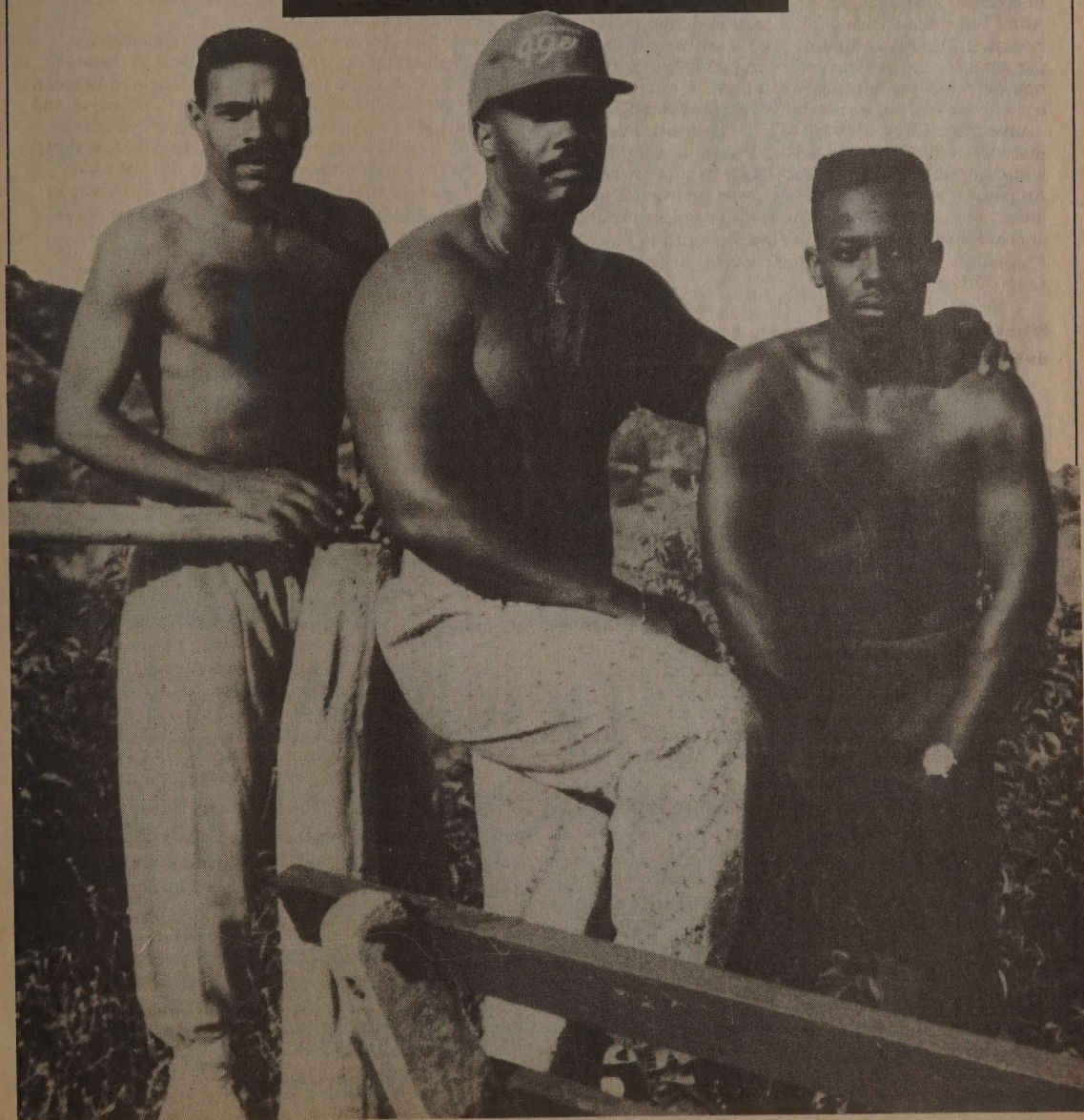
Absolutely.

And I pointed out to him that, in fact, it does, on a lot of levels. And since, as you've said,

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the gay community is a microcosm of the community at large, what do you see as our plan of action as people of color, as women, as women of color, as anyone who's not white, male, hung, good looking and built, in what is basically a subculture that is created by, for and about white men?

In terms of remedying that? I think we need a little bit of sharing. We just have to recognize and acknowledge that there are other gay people in the gay community aside from white men. And be inclusive of everybody of color and women, who are substantial people, who are making contributions toward the same cause, the same goal.

One of the things that really struck me when I came to L.A. from New York was how segregated the gay community was out here. In New York, everyone partied together. Little did I know that that was going to be the pattern for what I'd see later on, politically and socially and so forth. So I think one of the ways in which we can remedy this is to allow women and so-called minorities to be more represented in the gay community overall. There's responsibility on both parts, but especially on the part of white men, because they are the ones who are the power structure.

So how do we get the white boys to let us play in what is basically their yard?

I don't know how we get to do that. I kind of know what we need to do, but how we're going to arrive at that is really sort of beyond me. Especially in regards to white men. They don't give up nothin'.

Historically.

Historically. They ain't give up shit! And everything you get you have to fight for. And that's a really good question. Because really, what we're trying to say to them is—well, let's take just one little slice of it: the cover of *Frontiers*, and say, "How about you white boys giving the cover, at least half the year to men of color, and women." How about the movers and shakers in this community who happen to be lesbians? Some of the most impressive people in ACT-UP are women. And so, I would like to see more of that. I don't know that I really have the answers. But they have to relinquish a little bit of the power, and share that, and let the voices of people of color come through.

Just to play devil's advocate a bit here, why should they? Or rather, why would they?

I don't think they would. Why should they is another question. We know why they should, but why would they, is almost rhetorical.

Because the fact is, as I've said, the world does belong to those white guys, and since they're gay white guys, and so in a position where they can't be on top of the heap in the larger society—

They'll rule the smaller fish bowl. That's what AB-101 was all about. That's what the whole gay movement was all about for me. White guys were saying, "I've grown up white and male in America. And you're gonna discriminate against me because of my sexuality?" Because it's just unheard of to deny them anything.

Because they're raised to be king of the hill and suddenly, they're being treated like niggers.

Exactly. "We're not going to be the niggers" is what they're saying. And they don't really look to recruit other people. You go to these demonstrations, everybody's white, for the most part.

Do you think that's by design?

I think it's just sub-consciously, maybe consciously exclusionary. It's like, "We can do this ourselves. We don't care to have your input." And even if that's not the message that's really being transmitted, it's the one that's being interpreted. So I'm not trying to just dump it all on them; but I think that's how a lot of black people feel.

How did you go from the USC film school, intending to be a screen writer, to becoming a novelist?

I had been so entrenched in my [film] education, I wasn't given the opportunity to read any real literature. So I started reading all this fiction, and specifically black fiction. I had never read *Native Son*, I'd never read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. I'd talked to white kids at USC who had read that in high school. I'd never read James Baldwin's *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

That amazes me.

It's amazing to me, too. What happened was, I was reading literature generally, and concentrating on black literature...and the more I was reading, the more I understood, or at least thought, that I could possibly do this. Write novels. It seemed an attractive art form. You can kind of be an artist. Then, something profound happened. I don't say that to sound melodramatic, but it really was profound: I read James Baldwin's *Just Above My Head*. My favorite Baldwin novel.

Mine, too.

I'm glad you share that with me. And then I said, God damn! And I worked my way back: *Giovanni's Room*, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And I thought, This man is a black queer, and he's saying "I'm a black queer, and these are my stories and fuck you!" And I thought, that speaks to my anger, speaks to my rage, as both a black and queer man. And he's getting away with that! This man has published how many fuckin' novels and plays and essays. And I said, Hmmm. When I was reading Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Richard Wright and all those other greats, those works said to me, "You can do this." Baldwin's work said, "You *must* do this."

So it would be safe to say that Baldwin is a hero of yours.

Oh, absolutely. I adore him, and adore his work.

Do we have a James Baldwin now?

No.

Are you hoping to be that?

You know, to say that I hope to be that would be really presumptuous on my part. Because I don't really think there will be another Baldwin.

Really?

No, because I'm thinking of the whole, total man. The novelist, the playwright—not just the prolificacy, but



the different forms he worked in as a writer—essays, and really top-notch in everything he did. Here's a man who's written in all these different forms. Then, also, had his own political activist agenda. And what makes him even more unique is that he was caught up in a time, during the 60's, when his career was sort of parallel to what was happening in the civil rights movement. And he became a voice for black people, in many ways. Our shit was articulated through his work. Which is not to say that he was *the* spokesman for us, but he was certainly one of the most visible and the most heard.

If I could be, an eighth of what Baldwin was... because to me he is so mythical in his proportions. He was certainly the best black writer America ever produced. Which is interesting, because he and Langston Hughes are the two greatest black writers and they were both queers. I find that very interesting, but no surprise.

I would hope to have a career as prolific as his. And that's really all I can say about that because I don't think I could ever be...[shrugs]

Have you ever considered going back to film, becoming a screenwriter or film maker.

No, but anything's possible. I never rule anything out. But I'm very concentrated on my work as a fiction writer. I think I'm a writer of some talent; I think I'm a good writer; I think I fail; I think I pass sometimes. But I would someday like to be a great writer, if that's possible. But I know it's going to take everything I've got to do that. So who knows what could happen later on? But it would have to be something that really speaks to me, here [points to his heart]. Like with Madonna doing [a film of] *Giovanni's Room* —

Really? I hadn't heard that.

She talked about it in the *Advocate*. And she was talking about the fact that they hadn't hired any writers. Now, something like that, I would *love* to do. I would love to work with someone else on something like that.

One last little Baldwin thing: you wrote in the *Advocate* something to the effect that American society only allows one prominent black novelist per generation. You've already said you don't think we've got a Baldwin now. Do you see anyone as being the black male writer of our generation; and if so, who might that be?

No, I don't think we have one. And that was part of what I was saying in that article in the *Advocate*.

That, first of all, it's insulting in and of itself to allow us *one*, as it were.

Do we even have our one?

No, we don't even have that *one*. What's even more insulting is that Baldwin's place hasn't even been filled. This man died in 1987. James Baldwin's been dead four years. Now, what has happened since then is that Charles Johnson went on to win the National Book Award for *Middle Passage*. And he's the first black man to win it since Ralph Ellison was awarded it for *Invisible Man*. James Baldwin was scheduled to win it the year after Ellison for *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And the judges said—

Not two in a row?

Not two in a row! But I must also say that I do see a burgeoning of black male writers out there, in unprecedented numbers. Queer and everything else. And I think that's true of black writers generally, but certainly for black men. So, I'll take what I can get, know what I mean? And whoever's going to even attempt to fill Baldwin's shoes, I hope that there's ten or 20. And perhaps we'll be among them, as queer, black male writers. You or me or Randall Kenan or Melvin Dixon, or whomever.

You have, in fact, finished yet another novel.

Yes.

And do we want to say anything about that?

Yeah, we can. This novel, my third novel, was the easiest novel to write. And it was the most difficult to write. It is the most autobiographical of all of my novels. The first novel is very, very minimally autobiographical. The second novel is maybe 40 percent autobiographical. The third novel is a lot more so, because it's an AIDS novel which chronicles the ill-fated relationship of two star-crossed lovers, who fall in love after sort of looking for each other for years. And then one of them gets sick. So, they have everything to live for, in terms of each other and their careers. And their lives are just blown out of the water by the fact that one of them gets AIDS. This story is based on my own experience with my late lover.

It was a novel I had to write. I couldn't write anything else until I wrote this. I recognize it as a brick wall I had to break through. It acted as a catharsis, as therapy, as a way of having a monologue about the most tragic thing ever to happen in my life. Nineteen-ninety-one was a year of mourning for me, for the most part; my lover died in October of 90, and from that point on, up until damn near three-quarters of 1991, I was in deep mourning. And in writing the novel, there were many scenes, as you can imagine, where I had to really call up a lot of stuff, where I would literally be there, sitting at my

desk, unable to see the words, because I was blinded by tears. I know that sounds melodramatic, but it's true. But when I finished, I realized that when I took it out of here [indicates his heart], and put it on some paper, that was like the beginning of the end of the horrible part of the healing. I grieved less after I wrote it. And it seemed like things were really beginning to lift, as I'd been wanting them to lift for months. I was tired of crying, I was tired of hurting, tired of missing him. I'm not used to being a perpetually depressed person, just wallowing in depression. I wasn't working, I wasn't writing, I wasn't teaching. I needed that time to heal myself. Lick my wounds.

So, I'm most proud of that novel—it's called *One Hundred Days From Now*, because—I call it a wartime novel. It has a lot of different levels of conflict and dynamic, because one of the lovers is black and one is Latino, and he was in the closet for 20 years and he's just coming out of his closetedness; and his family doesn't even know he's gay, and they're lying to his friends about his having leukemia. There's all these different things.

Do you have a publisher for it?

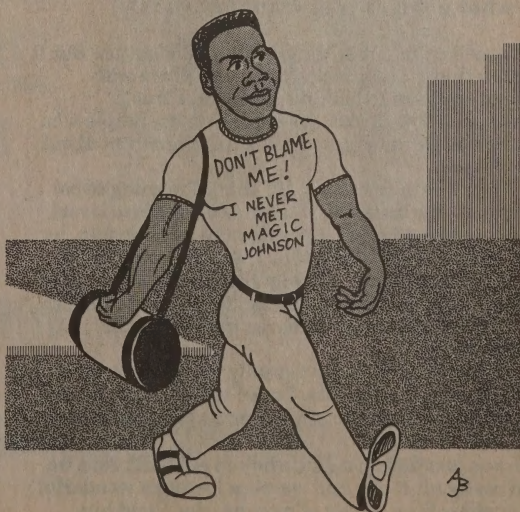
No, we're still shopping it.

On the general subject of AIDS: you're HIV positive.

Yes. How'd you know that?

You mentioned it at the Black Gay Men's Retreat.

I don't remember discussing my HIV status there.



You didn't discuss it; you sort of dropped it at one of the big pow-wow type gatherings, where one of the subjects was about romances between HIV positive and negative. What bearing does your HIV status have on your work: either what you write, or how fast you feel you have to write it or anything like that? I ask because, a couple of years back, Mark Thompson was telling me about the umpteen projects he was working on, all at once. And I said, Why are you doing all this at one time? And he said, I'm HIV positive, I don't have forever.

That's Paul Monette's thing, too. I don't know if that's my thing. I certainly hope to leave a good body of work, whenever I die, for whatever reason I die. But I really deal with my HIV status, for the most part, in a very—I have a life to live. I have a career. I have work to do. And I'm not saying that in the sense of "I have to get these books out now because next week I might be symptomatic," because I'm not symptomatic. I have high T-cells, I'm healthier than I've ever been. So I don't feel that same immediacy as, say, Paul Monette. Which is a big reason for his prolificacy. But for me, I don't really use that as an impetus to get all this work out all of a sudden.

I don't necessarily have to die from this—anything can happen. And I'm not even going to project that far into the future. I'm just going to take this a day at a time, live my life, try to find me a husband, settle down and have some kids, you know? And write my fuckin' books. And go about my business.

When you're seeing someone, romantically, at what point do you drop that shoe?

It depends. I'm not ashamed of my HIV status. But it is something that you don't run and share with people. Because I think it's an issue of trust, sometimes. People can get kind of weird, people who might have kids, say, and are kind of ignorant about the illness.

When I date somebody, if I think I'm going to be involved—for instance, when Carlos [his late lover] and I were dating, ten days into the relationship, he told me he was HIV positive. I was also positive at the time, but I didn't tell him then, because I didn't feel the need to. Because I wasn't even that *into* him. So I did tell him later on, three weeks into the relationship.

If I feel like I'm going to really, really be involved with somebody, I feel like I need to tell them within the first month. Especially if there's going to be sex involved.

I was just dating a guy, who's in ACT-UP. And we had really hit it off. And we were having a wonderful little affair for a couple of months. But I told him

about my HIV status about two weeks into it. And I was absolutely shattered. We were in the Beverly Center when I told him—we were going to a movie and we had time to kill. He just started crying. He'd told me he was an emotional person. But when he cried, it also told me how much he cared for me. Because, what the discussion was about was that he had basically decided in his mind that we were going to be boyfriends. So he was devastated. He's a foreigner, he's from India, he's been in this country three years. And despite his AIDS activism, he's AIDS-phobic. And was dealing with his fear on two major levels. Number one, the possibility of being infected himself. But more than that, losing me.

And that's why he couldn't allow himself to get involved. And it was not an unwise decision. I tried very hard not to be judgmental about the irrationality of his fear, especially as an AIDS activist. But I also understood. Because that is some pain I wouldn't wish on anybody.

Just another reality of your HIV life. Dating in the '90s.

On the subject of HIV in the Nineties, let's talk Magic Johnson for a moment, shall we?

Well, let me just say that I feel for Magic Johnson like I feel for anybody who's dealing with the virus. The way in which all this support has galvanized around the fact that he had been diagnosed is not his fault. He is a sports hero. He is a god by the definition of Western society. And we all know that they celebrate AIDS cases, more often than not, who are heterosexuals: the Kimberly Bergalis, the Ryan Whites. Now, that's a double-edged sword, because we do have a great deal of support, as I said, galvanizing around these issues, driving the point home a little bit more. But, it's also their way of saying, "That faggot disease has smeared, or tainted poor Kimberly Bergalis, poor Ryan White, poor Magic Johnson. Those fags, look what they did. Now their shit has spread to him, or her."

But the other side of that coin is, people smell the fuckin' coffee. And they realize, this is not, as we've been saying for ten fuckin' years, this is not a fag disease, Honey! A virus is a virus, okay?

So I had mixed feelings. On one hand, I thought: was just terrible to hear that about Magic Johnson. But incredibly courageous, and honest, for him to do what he did. Because he didn't have to do that. He could have kept it a totally private issue. And he could have decided he wasn't going to do shit about in terms of his political activism or getting involved he didn't have to do that. And he doesn't have to do any more or any less than anybody else because he's a public figure.

But what maddened me, of course, and angered me, and totally pissed me off, was how the world treated him, as if he was the first person to be diagnosed with HIV. Oh, poor Magic! And



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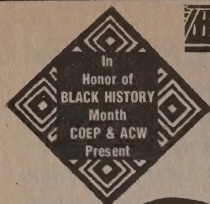
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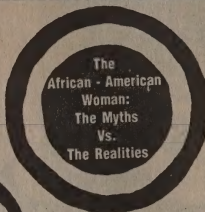
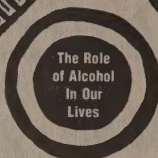
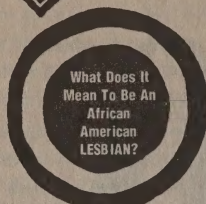
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Women's Calendar of Events for FEBRUARY

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD & THE CENTER'S WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT	THE CENTER L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT		SAVE THE DATE: 5th Annual June Swoon June 14th 3 - 6 pm		For More Information Call COEP (213) 957 - 3081	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff (NW corner of Corbin) Northridge Upstairs in World of Dance
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	NEW RAP GROUP!! "Over 35" GLCSC 1213 N. Highland # 108 7:30 - 9 pm	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Writing About Love Terry Wolverton 7 - 9 pm "About Lesbians of Color & Their Lesbian Friends" 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 Santa Monica Bl.	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Coming Out" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW 1147 S. Alvarado \$20 for 4 - week series	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "For Women of Color Only" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Singles" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbie Room	Valentine Women's Dinner & Dance ♥ ♥ "Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Lesbian Forum Black Lesbians in Politics A New Force 11 am - 2 pm Black History & Awards Program 7 - 10 pm Lesbian Mothers & Their Children 12 - 2 pm	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites: 8 - week writing workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Open Topic Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender \$50 Forgiveness: Opening Doors For A New Future Norma Cappello, MFCC 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	"Relationships" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbie Room	"Out On Tuesday" Television Series 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	"Wellness Project: Erolizing Safer Sex For Black Lesbians Mary Henderson 7 - 9 pm Queer Rites Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "Racism" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm	"Wellness Project: Feminist Perspectives On Addictions Nan Van Den Bergh, PhD 7:30 - 9 pm Ravenous Readers "The Bluest Eye" 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	Communication With Your Partner Dr. Louise Mebane Dr. Lynne Peterson 7 - 9:30 pm "Dating Skills" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wild Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbie Room	"Women In Love" Film & Discussion Dr. Sylvia Rhue 8 - 10 pm at E2TV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT: 7051 SANTA MONICA BL. 213 • 957 • 3081

muthafuckahs have been dying for ten years and where the fuck were you people!

My third novel, *One Hundred Days From Now*, I'm dedicating it to everybody I've known personally who has died of AIDS. And the list is ever growing. One week alone, I had to add three names to the dedication page. Three names! So, we're in this together. And it's scary, the level of ignorance, because that's what's going to abet the disease, help it spread.

Do you think Magic Johnson is going to do anybody any good?

I think yes, in some ways. And it may not be the hands-on, concrete results of what organizations are doing or what President Bush might be doing now, or health organizations. One of the most important things that Magic Johnson's diagnosis is doing, I feel, is that it is educating people. It is really waking people up. It's almost as if he were a divinely chosen person, picked to be the next example of who AIDS can happen to. Not just Rock Hudson, because Magic Johnson is above and beyond that in terms of his appeal and his popularity. So I think that when you hear Rev. Carl Bean talking about how the phone rang off the hook at the Minority AIDS Project the day after the announcement, that is sending out a very important, loudly-resounding message that straight people think they can't get it. They don't think they have to use condoms. And now Magic Johnson has it, and so now it's real. I think that's what's really important. Because it's ignorance, and denial, and finger-pointing that act as a petri dish for a virus like HIV. There's no disease like the disease of fear, and prejudice.

What are you writing now? Novel four?

No, I haven't started it yet. But after I finished the third novel, I wrote a couple of short stories, one of which I sent to Terry Wolverton for her upcoming anthology, *Still Indivisible*. And I wrote, I think, the best short story I've ever written. I wrote a story about my father, called *My Father's Son*, and it's unequivocally my favorite short story that I have.

This is fiction?

All I write is fiction. So that's what I've been working on recently. So probably the next project I tackle will be the fourth novel. I was hoping to be in London and writing it there, you know, that whole romantic notion of writing in a foreign country, à la Baldwin, à la Langston Hughes.

You really need Paris for that.

But London will do. See, the thing about London that's real desirable for me, is that my career is very

visible there. They published my first novel, they're publishing the second novel. I just had two short stories published there, one in November, one in December. So, I'm really visible there, in ways that I'm not here.

Any idea why that is?

It's the old, classic cliché, that so many African-Americans find fame in cultures outside their own, first. It's like a bandwagon mentality. America looked at how popular Jimi Hendrix had become in London, or how well Josephine Baker was doing in Paris, or Jody Watley in London, Terence Trent D'Arby, James Baldwin or Richard Wright in Paris; and then, they jump on the bandwagon, to take credit for that. The British bought my second novel like [snaps his fingers] that. A chapter was published in a magazine, an editor was on his way to work, reading the chapter, liked it; got to the office, called the magazine to see if I was being represented in the United Kingdom; they said yes; she forwarded the manuscript, and a month later, they made me an offer. That would never have happened in America. Not as a black, queer writer.

So, I'd like to write a project in another cultural setting. I'd like to do Paris, too; that's my first choice. I love Paris: it's my favorite European city, it's my second favorite city in the world I've seen so far, the first being New York. But in London, I have the audience, I have the readership. It just might be the place for me to be.

What are you reading now?

I'm reading short stories. I'm reading the anthology that just published me in Great Britain. It's a GMP anthology, called *More Like Mines*. And then there's a literary journal that I was published in, called *Passport*. And both of them are samplings of international writers. And I'm also reading *Men on Men II*. To read an international representation of writers is pretty exciting and stimulating. You see all the different cultural styles, the way different writers work. And also, I like to see what company I'm in.

For instance, some of the stuff in *More Like Mines* is really good. Do you know who Lev Raphael is?

Certainly.

He has a story in there called "Beth Homo." Larry, this story is so wonderful to me. And I just think... Wow. And they published my story? Anyway, that's what I'm reading now.

Unlike the general public, I happen to know that you have a beautiful singing voice, because you sang a capella, and beautifully, for the talent show at the Black Gay Men's

Retreat. And I'm curious, had you ever considered a career as a singer?

Yes. That's what I thought I was going to do. We share that, although you actually pursued it, but I didn't. I was a closet singer. A shower singer. The only public singing I ever participated in was in church choirs and school choirs. I was always made a soloist, and people always said, "Oh, you have a nice voice," and I love music. But it was never much more than that. But I think, because of my passion for music, my love for music, I kind of (in a passive way) thought, "That's what I'll pursue, I'll be a singer." And I'm still a frustrated singer. I would love to be able to sing, to be able to do them both.

In terms of romantic or sexual relationships, do you have any sort of racial agenda? Do you go out looking for white men, or black men? Do you have a preference?

No. I'm one of those rare people who have no racial preferences. I don't have types. My only type is good looking, and *about* something, working toward something, doing something with your life. In regard to black men in Los Angeles, I can't get *arrested* by one.

[big laugh] That was a laugh of recognition, because I feel the same way.

I mean it. I can't get *arrested* by black men. And I say specifically Los Angeles, because here, black men want the guy on the cover of *Frontiers*. I've had two relationships in my life. One man, I lived with for six

years. He was Argentine. And my second lover, the one who died, was Mexican. From Mexico City. A self-made millionaire. Indisputably one of the most brilliant people I had ever met in my life. Rich, beautiful, knowledgeable, all those things. His mother was an Anglo woman from the mid-West, who went on vacation to Mexico, and met his father there. And when I met him, I thought he was white, because he was sandy-haired and had beautiful blue eyes. And I noticed a little Spanish lilt to his speech, which was really sexy. And he told me his name was Carlos, and I thought, what is somebody as Anglo as you doing with a name like Carlos? And the guy I mentioned before, in ACT-UP, he's Indian, from Bombay.

I don't care, Larry. I get so annoyed with all these narrowly defined requirements that people want from their men. And they say, Well, you like what you like. But it's not that simple. You like what you're *told* to like. When you see that issue of *Edge*, when you see that issue of *Frontiers*, that is sending out a subliminal message that *this* is what's hot. This is the superior beauty example. You should want *this*. And many people fall for that, unquestioningly.

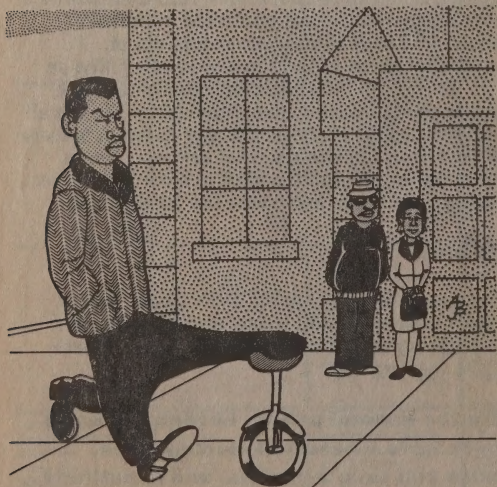
I just kind of like *men*. And I also think you can be black and be with somebody white, as long as you know who you are, and you have a point of reference about yourself—culturally, racially, historically—know where you're from. And not try to pass over to the other side, where the other racially different partner is. Love is where you find it, it really is. And this world is so bereft of love, of good candidates. I don't even want to get into the whole *men* thing.

The "whole men thing"?

I have this ongoing love/hate thing with men.

Well, let's talk about that for a little bit.

Okay. I think so many men—especially queer men—are not equipped to be loved, to commit. All those phobias we hear about heterosexuals all the time—it's true of gay men, too. And I can be as much of a slut as anyone, if that's what I choose to do. But I'm much more focused on being involved with someone, sharing my life with someone, building something with someone. And there are a lot of men out there who claim they want a boyfriend, they want to be committed, but they really don't. And that disturbs me. I don't think there's anything wrong with having as part of the gay subculture the leaning toward promiscuity. That's fine. And I'm not trying to be judgmental about any of that. But one of the things we don't emphasize in the gay community is relationships. We don't promote that. We don't talk about that. Maybe we see it as an imitation of what middle-class heterosexual life is, I don't really know where that's coming from. But we just don't seem to have a balance. I think there's something to be said for couples who are together for years and years. How



Be careful what you wish for. You just may get it.

come we don't celebrate that? How come we don't talk about that? It's like something that's in the closet.

And then, some queer men will get upset when we're portrayed as these sexual beings. Well, who can you blame the image [on], because that's the way we behave, the way we've structured our values. And in a way, I love the whole sexiness and decadence and gorgeous men—I love all of that. But, there is something else to us. We're more than just sexual beings.

I think there's a little too much emphasis on debauchery, on the sexual entity in our culture. I just wish there was more of a balance.

What I'd like to see a little more of, is that sense of family we have in the gay community. And that's on several levels. We have a sense of family in that, no matter how close we are to our own families—and I'm very close to my family, my family is very gay-friendly, everybody in my fuckin' life knows I'm a fag—and still, it's not the same thing as being at a retreat with 29 other black gay men, or being with gay friends on Christmas Eve. This sense of family that we have, whether that be a nuclear family like you and Greg, or the extended family where you have friends who come together because we totally understand each other. And no matter how gay-friendly our biological families are, they don't understand you in some ways that I understand you, by virtue of the fact that we're both queer men. And I'd like to see more emphasis on that.

Do you see that happening in the community?

I think so, but I think it's very minimal. And I think we're overloaded and overwhelmed with the other, which is the sexual thing, the promiscuity, the live-for-today attitude.

I certainly try to do what I can through my work. Having written *One Hundred Days From Now*, I've written two stories about a relationship between two men who obviously have some sense of family among themselves. And in *Fragments That Remain*, as I said, although Schuyler is coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white guy, they're still trying to work it out, to find some way to be together. Which is also part of the story—will they be able to do it.

A small semantic issue: you seem to use the words "gay" and "queer" pretty much interchangeably. Are they interchangeable for you?

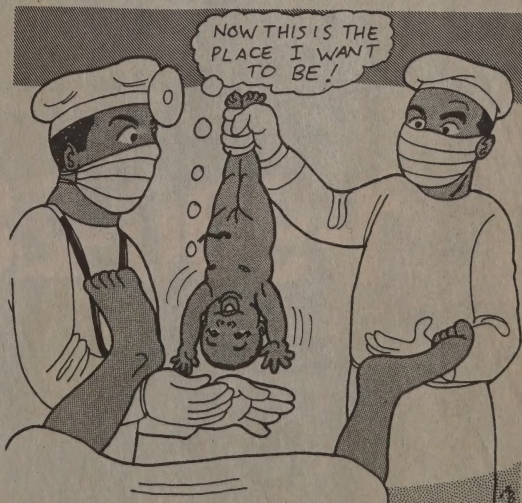
Well, you know, I find that lately—especially the more I become entrenched in my political activism, where the word "queer" is thrown around a lot—that word has made its way into my vocabulary, somehow. And I really like defining myself as queer.

Why?

It's like—you didn't tell me, I told you. If you want me to be your queer, I'll be your queer. You want me to be your nigger, I'll be your nigger. And it's not from a place of hostility; it's just—I'll be a queer, if that's the way in which you can listen to me, or hear me, or address me, or identify me. In a way that you feel comfortable. And I'm giving it right back to you—yeah, I'm a queer. What about it? To me, it's a self-empowerment thing. And I find I'm using it more than "gay." And, for the sake of argument, I guess they are interchangeable. Except I think that "queer," at least in my mind, denotes an edge of radicalism. An edge of visibility. It says, I'm not going to be quiet. Maybe gay people will be quiet. Queers aren't quiet.

Is that because the word "queer" is so closely associated with Queer Nation, who are not a quiet bunch?

I think even before Queer Nation—and I'm sure that's why they use that term, because that particular identification was becoming more widely used. It was like turning the tables. We never used to like being called queer or faggot. And I refer to myself on many occasions as a faggot, as queer; not meaning to be disparaging to myself, at all. So, I think it was even there before Queer Nation got it. And then they took it and put it out there. And now everybody relates it to them, which is fine. I thought it was great, when I heard about this organization called Queer Nation. "I'm here, I'm queer and fuck you!" I like that kind of shit. That kind of stuff speaks to me, because that's what it's gonna take. You never make any kind of gains, socially, politically, economically, by being nice. We all know that. Being this nice little



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EXT. 14

gay boy, this nice little proper Negro, like we were raised to be. Non-threatening, non-confrontational. So the word "queer" really speaks to that.

When did you grow your dreadlocks, and why?

I started them in May of 1988, so I've had them nearly four years. In a world, in a culture, in a city where we're still dealing with racial self-hatred and black people who don't love themselves; in the face of Jheri-curls and hair weaves; I felt compelled, literally, to make a statement about my ethnicity. It was a way of asserting my ethnicity. I was raised by two parents who taught us never to alter anything of your natural make-up; i.e., putting chemicals in your hair. When I was growing up, it was the "process." The process segued into the Jheri-curl. And, especially in Los Angeles, the Image Capital. And there are so many black people in this town, especially in the gay community, again—who are trying to be replicas of white America in the way they wear their hair. And I don't really have a problem with that, *per se*, as much as I have a problem with the changes we put ourselves through to alter ourselves.

I wish I could see more ethnic looking women in L.A. In New York, you see a lot of black women who look black. They celebrate their blackness. They wear hair-do's like you've never seen before, that just come out of a black woman's creativity.

As to my dreadlocks, I remember wanting to have them. And I always had these jobs, like you, working in law firms. And of course, you can't wear them there. And there I was, I'd sold *No Easy Place To Be*, I'm living on this little money, I'm a full-time writer and—oh! I can have dreadlocks now! In London, you see more people with dreadlocks than here. They're also much more commonplace in New York, on the East Coast.

So, that's where the dreadlocks come from. I just feel like sometimes I have to assert myself as an African-American queer; trying to remain visible; trying to get through life like anybody else, without any compromise about who I am and what I look like. Without someone dictating to me what my aesthetic should be, what my agenda should be, what my program should be, who I should be sleeping with. I have to do that for myself.

On the subject of chemical and surgical alteration, the sight of Michael Jackson must make you run screaming.

Yes, he does. What are black kids thinking when they see him?

I can't imagine. I literally can't imagine.

I can't, either. And there must be some white kids—and maybe some black kids, too—who don't have any

prior point of reference about Michael Jackson, before the surgeries. They may not even know if he's black or white. I can just see white kids asking their parents, Is he white, Mommy? Because white people tend to be really naive about those things. If we have what they think are Caucasoid features and lighter skin complexions, its like—Oh, you couldn't possibly be totally black, because you're too beautiful and your hair is too straight or wavy or whatever. And it's the same kind of dynamic with this Michael Jackson thing. And what could be more ironic than "It doesn't matter if you're black or white," when he's trying to be as white as possible? And I just think it's very sad. There's a part of me that's angry about it, but I think I'm much more sad about it than angry. Because this guy is just so lost. And his self-hatred yells just a little bit louder each time he releases an album. The nose has disappeared, the lips have disappeared, the skin is lighter, the hair is straighter. Just look at his videos chronologically.

And I'm so concerned about what message black kids are getting. If they want to be like Michael Jackson. And I think Michael Jackson is a wonderful role model for children, generally, and certainly for black children, I really do. And I was really upset when Farakhan was calling him "sissyish" or whatever. But in that one way, I find him disturbing, because we've had enough self-hatred. I am tired of self-hatred among black people. I am tired of self-hatred among queers. And we just have to get to a place where we can say this is who we are, this is what we have to work with, and this is okay. And it's as good as anybody else's.

So, what color of toilet paper do you use?

Whatever's available. Usually white.



Future GBM.

Oprah Look-alike

BY MARK HAILE



When the *Ladies' Home Journal* held their look-alike contest, Jecquin Stitt's supervisor, Beverly Keller, encouraged Jecquin wholeheartedly to enter. It didn't surprise anyone either that the Flint, Mich. native won the contest, as Stitt was a perfect double for Oprah Winfrey.

"I never intended to imitate her," Stitt told BLK, "I just happened to be looking like her..." The resemblance was stunning enough to start a second career for Stitt, currently employed by the city's Water Department.

For the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the look-alike contest and their winner turned into a quandary when they discovered that Jecquin Stitt, 33,

was actually a man.

Jecquin (pronounced "Jeh-KEEN") never actually mis-identified himself to *LHJ*. "I'm not lying to the public," he told TV station WJRT. "You know, because I *am* going through some changes." Stitt told BLK that the change should be completed by April. That will allow plenty of time for her to prepare for a June wedding with her fiancé, rap artist William Booker.

The first inclination on the part of *LHJ* was to disqualify Stitt, but when lawyers advised that it might pave the way for a sex discrimination case, they shrugged their shoulders and let the show go on as planned.

The prizes included a

complete studio makeover, a photo session and an appearance on *Oprah* with the star herself.

Although Oprah's staff was "really nice," Stitt noted that the appearance was brief, without a chance to even talk with Oprah after the taping. "A few of them told me they wish Oprah was as nice as I was," Stitt told BLK.

The publicity for Stitt from appearing on *Oprah* would be hard to duplicate, but it was far from being her first time as a winner. Since taking first place as Queen of the Ball in 1983, Stitt has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in Flint, and has taken the Miss Copa title as well.

The positive response

to her appearance as Oprah convinced Stitt to get back before the lights, and resulted in her being in constant demand for performances. Her summer schedule has her jumping across the Great Lakes states into Canada, and from Flint to Saginaw to Ann Arbor as well as to clubs from Ohio to Kansas.

Stitt has far more in her show than just Oprah. She also gives her audiences a heavy dose of Patti Labelle, Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Holliday and some comedy along with song and dance.

Stitt has been able to make time to perform for local benefits, making a priority of helping out groups like Agape, a local AIDS service organization.

Throughout the whirlwind of publicity, which on top of the *Oprah* appearance has included interviews with *People*, *Time*, *Jet*, *Entertainment Tonight*, CNN, and a visit on *To Tell the Truth*, Stitt has had 100 percent support from her family, who help shield her when she needs her privacy.

"They think it's a gas," said Stitt. "They're getting used to this attention. They protect me." Theirs is a pretty normal family, Stitt told BLK, that stays out of the limelight for the most part.

Will success change Jecquin—more than the changes she's going through? No, say her co-workers and family, who also have had to adjust to the swarm of publicity they are responsible

in part for starting. Her relatively normal day job and home life has helped Stitt plan her career moves with a level head. She and her fiancé have been supportive of each other's careers, but Stitt doubts, smiling, that she will be in her fiancé's first video, even though they both independently are looking at recording and doing television. Her own first video is now in post-production.

Although she has an agent now handling bookings for her and her dance troupe and has also started her own production company, Stitt is intent on staying true to herself—the self that *happens* to look like Oprah. She reminded BLK, "But there's a lot more to me than that!"



STITT PHOTO BY KENT C. MILLER

Starts 2nd Career

JOE PRESSLEY

By Eric K. Washington

THE organization has done so much for me," Joe Pressley says of the five year old Gay Men of African Descent, better known as GMAD. Pressley was elected in the spring to head the group, but that's not what he means. He easily sees himself as a living testament to GMAD's effectiveness as a support group, and who would be inclined to disagree? After all, this new executive director has only been out for two years. Pressley hastens to credit GMAD for his rapid evolution as he recalls his bashful debut two years ago at one of the group's anniversary picnics in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

"I was very closeted," Pressley says with an ironic expression. **"I was on my bike and I rode around the park four times until a good friend of mine saw me and said, 'Come on over, come on over! We've been watching you riding around the park all this time.'"** Pressley's 18-speed, like a faithful pet, is steadied by a hand on its saddle while its owner reminisces. **"Ever since that time,"** he confesses, **"I can't keep away."**

Pressley's friends in the organization sometimes chide him, he says, for making GMAD his whole life. It isn't quite. By day the single (and, he notes, eligible) 27-year-old is a technical writer

for computer software, a digression from his major at Syracuse University in African-American studies. Although he works in what he calls a supportive environment, he expresses a desire to eventually **"move out of corporate**

America" to do community-based work.

As initiative in that direction, GMAD is a major step. The organization boasts a roster of about 300 members, a mailing list of about 1200, **"mostly based in New York,"** says Pressley, noting that the group draws from across the country and the Caribbean. **"There's been talk of putting together other chapters,"** he adds, **"but right now we're trying to strengthen our organization capacity here in New York."**

As GMAD's executive director Pressley will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization whose mission, he says, is to provide support for men of color of the African diaspora, to politicize people and to promote the well-being of the overall lesbian and gay community. He will also be charged with preparing the budget, co-ordinating and overseeing the Friday membership meeting and working with the board of directors to set policy.

At the time of our talk, Pressley and GMAD were making plans for African-American Day. **"What**



NEAL COLLINS

we want to do this year is make it an all-day event," he says, noting plans for a morning brunch to precede the annual parade through Harlem. **"In the afternoon there's a reception for GMADers who march at Home to Harlem,"** he adds, speaking of the bookstore on 125th Street that is Harlem's main commercial thoroughfare.

One of Pressley's long-range goals for GMAD is to acquire more autonomous working space for the organization. At present the group sublets a portion of office space from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and holds its weekly meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

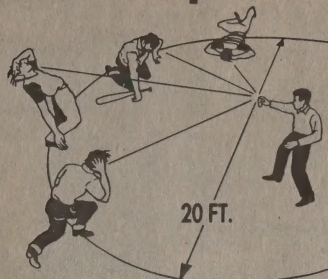
"I'd like to see us have more meetings outside the Center," he says. **"While I think it's important that we realize we have a place in the Center, I think it's important that we start having meetings and doing programs in our respective communities ...I'd like to see us own our own property where we can actually conduct our administrative activities as well as hold our programs and our general meetings. Hopefully in a place like Harlem or in Bed Stuy."**

One goal that Pressley hopes to achieve during his tenure is approval is Federal 501c(3) status, the income tax code under which tax-exempt groups are filed.

Pressley expresses another pressing desire he has for the group: He'd like for GMAD to establish itself more strongly as a support lender to some of the existing AIDS-related direct-service organizations for communities of color. Groups such as the Minority Task Force on AIDS, for example. **"Hopefully, not long-range,"** he says, shuddering at the given that AIDS may well remain a long-term crisis. **"I guess, immediately, for over the next couple of years, I'd like to see us giving them (MTFA) our manpower, pulling from our membership, doing hospital visitations and home care, things like that."**

Things like that, one realizes, would hardly have been uttered by this man two years ago. Now, as Joe Pressley remounts his bike and the spokes of the wheels begin to flutter like a loom, he has lost the timid air of someone skirting an uncertain path. He now appears to be spinning that path for others to follow.

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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

PHYLLIS HYMAN

"Prime Of My Life"

(Philadelphia International)

It has been five years since her last album, *Living All Alone*, but for Phyllis Hyman this new release reflects "the spiritual, intellectual and creative growth I've been experiencing." Although her first record was released in 1977 on Buddah Records, it was her five year period with Arista Records in which she released such unforgettable hits as "Somewhere In My Lifetime," "You Know How To Love Me," and my personal favorite (which I still listen to today) "The Answer Is You." During this same time she also established a large and loyal fan base.

Long a member of an elite circle of mellow, sophisticated song stylists, Phyllis has consistently been a much-sought-after live performer. Approaching her 15th year as a recording artist, Hyman is very much in touch with the person inside the star. "I feel that I'm more secure and comfortable with myself now," she says. "I've learned to appreciate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of my voice in a way that I hadn't done in the past."

Although every song in this collection is a winner, there are some stand-outs. "When I Give My Love (This Time)" exposes Hyman's voice at its sensual best, and is truly one of her greatest ballads. She echoes feelings of passion on the intensely romantic "Meet Me On The Moon." Hyman also comes correct (and



CAROL FRIEDMAN

contemporary) with the album's slammin' first single, "Don't Wanna Change The World." Does anyone have the phone numbers of any of the dancers in the video?

ULTRA NATE

"Blue Lights in the Basement"

(Eternal/Warner Bros.)

As a dance album, this project definitely works: clubgoers will love the house beats and bass-heavy rhythms, courtesy of album producers the Basement Boys. As a vocalist, however, Ultra Nate (pronounced nah-TAY) comes up short.

The Baltimore-based Basement Boys (Thomas Davis, Jay Steinhour and Teddy Douglas) have quickly become club music's producers/remixers-of-the-moment, and with good reason. The trio started as DJ's who were heavy into Baltimore's underground

dance scene: these guys know a slammin' beat when they hear one. The threesome was also behind the best-selling debut album by Crystal ("La-de-di, La-de-da") Waters - another non-singing diva.

Nate grew up singing in the church, but the power and intensity that is usually a result of such training does not come through on this album. When attempting higher notes, her voice often fades away. On the gospel-esque "Rejoicing (I'll Never Forget)," her background singers sound as if they're singing on a different record.

All this aside, this album is not without some jams worth noting. The best of these include "Is It Love?," which confirms that disco is becoming a stronger influence on today's dance music. Also worth the journey is "It's Over Now," and the sophisticated, down-tempo "Rain."

TOUGH YOUNG TENORS

"Alone Together"

(Antilles/Island)

Unless you've had your head under a rock for the last year, you've no doubt heard a lot of talk about the so-called "young lions" of jazz. A steady stream of incredibly talented young musicians have turned the often complacent jazz world on its collective ear. An exceptional quintet of tenor sax players—James Carter, Herb Harris, Tim Warfield, Jr., Walter Blanding, Jr. and Todd Williams—make this recording well worth seeking out.

The greatest traditions of jazz are preserved, as influences from John Coltrane to Ben Webster shine through. The album's composition allows each player's talent ample opportunities to soar: each player has a solo performance, each does two duets and all five jam in the final track, "The Eternal Triangle." Pianist Marcus Roberts, whose reputation was greatly enhanced by playing with Wynton Marsalis' group, gives the rhythm section added credibility, along with bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Ben Riley.

Harris, a Washington, D.C. native, has a smooth, romantic style that makes "You Go to My Head" one of the album's outstanding ballads. Thelonius Monk's "Ask Me Now," showcasing Blanding's excellent tone and emotional quality, and Duke Ellington's "Stevie," which features both Warfield and Williams, are just a few of many treasures.

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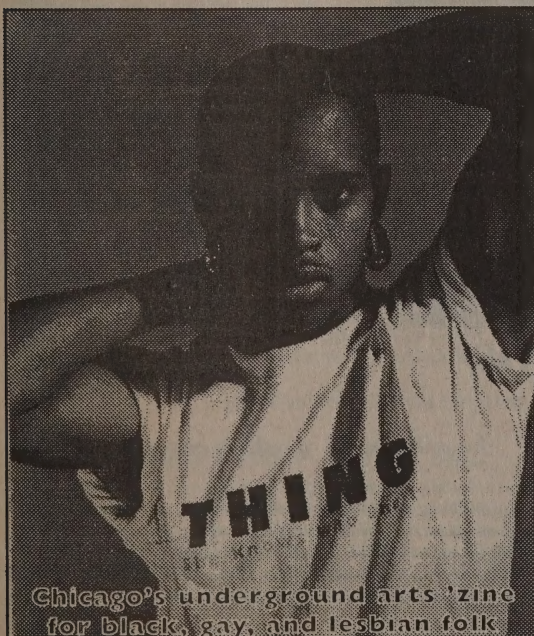


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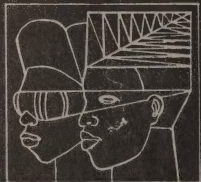
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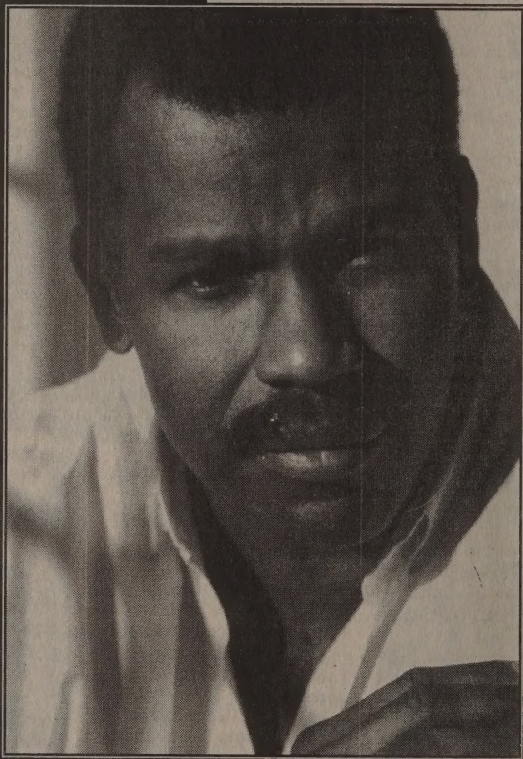
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BLK NEWS

COMPILED BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON, NEWS EDITOR

GLOW Adds New Chapters

JOHANNESBURG—GLOW, a predominantly black lesbian and gay activist organization started in 1989 now has grown to four chapters in Kwa-Thema, Tembisa, Soweto and Johannesburg Central.

The launching of GLOW has tended to belie the assumption that homosexuality in South Africa is merely a "white-male, middle-class problem." According to GLOW, most South African homosexuals aren't white, about half are female.

GLOW is a campaign organization, setting out to challenge conservative assumptions about lesbians and gays, changing them if it can, and fighting the oppression of lesbians and gay men.

—John Hubert

2,000 March in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Two thousand lesbians and gay men took to the streets Oct. 12 in the country's—and Africa's—second ever lesbian and gay pride parade. The marchers stepped off from the Great Hall at Witwatersrand University.

There were contingents from Cape Town, Durban, the Orange Free State and Pretoria—from Gazankulu, Rop and neighboring Swaziland, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Police behaved well—going so far as to provide a motorcycle escort. Riot squads were sprinkled along the route to protect marchers.

The marchers—40 percent black, 60 percent white—represented gay political groups, gay sports teams, AIDS care providers, the Johannesburg health department, unions, student political organizations, the African National Congress, and *Exit*, Africa's only gay newspaper.

The post-march party in the park featured organizational booths, food, beer, a puppet show, singing, dancing, "and a general re-affirmation of our identity," according to one lesbian.

Last year, 800 people turned out for Johannesburg's first pride parade. Both marches were organized by GLOW, the Soweto-based gay group founded by anti-apartheid and gay activist Tseko Simon Nkoli.

—Rex Wockner and Gerry Davidson

Lorde Named New York Poet

ALBANY, N.Y.—Audre Lorde has been selected to receive the New York State Walt Whitman Citation of Merit for poets. The New York State Writers Institute announced on Oct. 2 that Lorde will serve as official State Poet from 1991-1993. Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded the prestigious citation at a special ceremony here on Nov. 13.

The poetry citation, along with the New York State Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for fiction writers was established in 1985 by the State Legislature under the aegis of the New



William Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Audre Lorde, Patrick Swygert

York State Writers Institute. Established to "promote and encourage fiction/poetry within the state," the citations are presented to a New York State writer and poet upon the recommendation of an advisory panel of distinguished writers every other year. The fiction writer citation was awarded to Norman Mailer.

The advisory panel for the State Poet award consisted of Robert Creeley, who is the current State Poet, Molly Peacock, Charles Simic, and Tom Smith, associate director of the Writers Institute.

"I am honored to stand as poet for New York State—itsself a poem of complexity, contradictions, and wonder—and to accept this award named for one of my earliest beacons toward the real matter of poetry," said Lorde in a press statement.

In a September 1990 BLK interview, Lorde described herself as "a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet and mother doing my work."

Her work, as described by Robert Creeley in a press release, is "a poetry of consummate human dignity which speaks for all who are caught in the trammels of poverty or disenfranchisement, that sad word for the powerlessness of the forgotten. She insists on all the range of particularity of human feelings, of care for one another, of love despite our defenses."

—Eric K. Washington

Black AIDS Educators Meet

LOS ANGELES—The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was one of several kick-off events that brought together front line health care providers and educators from across California.

The workshops and training were presented by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Asso-

DAVID JENNINGS

ciation of Black and White Men Together. As part of San Francisco's Gay Men of Color Consortium, presenters also came from the Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services, and organizations representing Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and the Native American communities.

Reggie Williams, executive director of NTEAP; Paul Davis of the Minority AIDS Project; Phill Wilson, City of Los

Angeles AIDS Services Coordinator; Dr. Wilbert Jordan, director of the AIDS institute at King Drew Medical Center; and more than two dozen other experts participated in the all-day workshops.

The institute was held the day before the Creating Change West conference was set to begin at the Sheraton Townhouse which evoked some complaints. Most out-of-town participants were not able to stay for the entire conference. More than just the registration fee was at issue, as most of the participants had learned of the conference only in the week or two preceding it. Airfare, housing, and duties at their respective agencies were listed as barriers to participation in the three days and nights of events around the conference.

—Mark Haile

BLK BRIEFS

NEW YORK: *Paris Is Burning* was voted the year's Best Documentary by the 25-member New York Film Critics' Circle.

PHILADELPHIA: Dwayne and Carlton Bennett, both 20, and Giovanni Reed, 16, were arrested in the robbery murder of Robert Charles Janke. Janke, 22, was a volunteer with Nite Watch, a neighborhood group formed to protect gay businesses. **MOBILE:** The Mobile Area Lesbian and Gay Assembly adopted a mission statement at its Nov. 18 meeting which read, in part, "to build a multi-cultural community where all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation...may congregate to support one another..."

NASHVILLE: The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain that has been under fire for its anti-gay hiring policies may incur the wrath of the African-American community for the "black mammy" dolls it carries in its adjacent gift shops. **BALTIMORE:** The Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore has been awarded \$10,000 from the state for AIDS' education. **ATLANTA:** A suspect identified only as Lindsay has been arrested and charged with assault telling officers the victim was just a "fucking homo."

HARARE, Zimbabwe: The manager of the Amenities Dept. said in Sept. that the city's four cemeteries are full and officials are considering requiring that persons who die of AIDS be cremated. **HOUSTON:** Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged in the shooting death of Philip W. Smith, 24, outside a Montrose bar. Police say Darrington said he shot the victim because he hates homosexuals.

MILWAUKEE: Catherine Lacy is suing three Milwaukee police officers, charging that their racism contributed to the death of her 23-year-old son, Oliver. The victim's mother says that her son would be alive today if the officers had believed witnesses' complaints and arrested Jeffrey Dahmer rather than returning a naked, bleeding Laotian boy to Dahmer's care. **SAN DIEGO:** Sistahparty held a workshop "Bridging the Gap: Celebrating Our Diversity" Nov. 23.

NEW YORK: Among the productions featured at Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Television Festival were *Splash* by Thomas Harris, *She Don't Fade* by Cheryl Dunye, *Homosexuality: A Child's Point of View* by Jahanara and *Emergence* by Pratibha Parmar. The festival took place in New York Oct. 9 through 13. **MILWAUKEE:** The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee held a discussion "Racism II: An Exploration of Attitudes and Experiences" Nov. 21.

NEW YORK: Men of All Colors/New York sponsored a four-month, four-session series, "Our Sisters, Ourselves" about relationships between black lesbians and gay men. **NEW YORK:** Among *Good Christian Peoples*, a video by Catherine Saalfeld and Jacqueline Woodson was shown at the Center Sept. 27. *Peoples* includes the music of the Lavender Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir...

Group Names '92 Officers

WASHINGTON—The D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men announced its leadership roster for 1992 following elections. Co-chairs of the membership organization representing black lesbians and gay men of the nation's capital are Kevin Taylor and Carlene Cheatam. Darren Buckner continues as business manager. Jim Byers wears two hats as secretary and membership committee chairman.

The political action committee is headed by Ernest Hopkins and Venus Thrash and the education committee is being led by Louise Gant and Gideon Ferebee. Sabrina Sojourner and Darren Buckner took charge of the finance committee while Stuart Adams and Jackie Walker preside over the newsletter committee.

John Wilson, chairman of the D.C. City Council delivered a personal message of congratulations at the installation ceremony for the new officers and took an opportunity to stomp for his new legislation which would allow rights for domestic partners similar to those that married couples enjoy.

—Mark F. Johnson

Man Calls Cleveland 'Dad'

LOS ANGELES—Andre M. Cleveland, formerly Andre McIsaac, claims he is the adopted son of the late Rev. James Cleveland. The 34 year old record producer has disputed the James Cleveland Trust, which maintains the Cornerstone Baptist Church and the Gospel Music Workshop of America, since the death of the Rev. Cleveland in February. The estate is said to be worth \$6 million, of which Andre Cleveland claims half.

In documents creating the trust, which was formed only hours before Rev. Cleveland slipped irrevocably into a coma, Cleveland's daughter LaShone was left \$100,000, and Andre, referred to as a "friend and godson" was left \$10,000.

Andre Cleveland stated at his West Hollywood press conference that after a year of living together, it was "mutually agreed that I would become his common-law son, bearing his name."

Jean Ervin, mother of the late minister's daughter, said that there were any number of young men who also cohabited with Rev. Cleveland over the years.

According to widely repeated but unsubstantiated rumors, Rev. Cleveland was preceded in death by his last love by about a year.

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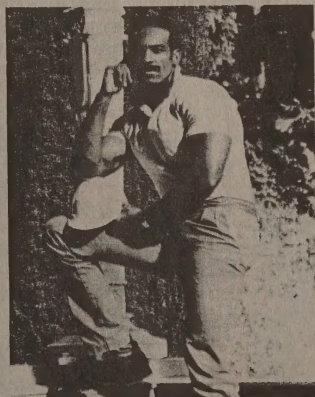
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file suit, it could throw into jeopardy the future existence of Cornerstone Baptist Church, already considerably run down and weed ridden less than a year after its founder's death. Cleveland contends that resorting to a lawsuit would strictly be because of "the principle of the matter," but others have noted that the "interest" could be quite high as well.

—Mark Haile

Judge Quizzes Jurors

NEWYORK—Heated controversy broke out here over a rumor that a judge had decided to allow defense lawyers in a gay-bashing murder trial to ask prospective jurors their sexual orientation. One of the defense lawyers, Harold Harrison, was quoted in the *New York Post* as saying, "The judge agreed that we will be able to question each juror about their sexual preference."

On the following Monday, as lesbians and gays demonstrated outside the Kew Gardens courthouse, Justice Sherman was reported to have angrily denied agreeing to such a line of questioning and to have declared, "No juror will be asked if they are homosexual."

"I think that the defense lawyers are completely out of line in this case," said Sandra Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in comments to BLK. Lowe asserted that such a line of questioning was impermissible and unconstitutional and she expressed her skepticism that the judge would allow it.

The case has been the cause of outrage in the lesbian and gay community since July 2, 1990, when 29-year old Julio Rivera was repeatedly beaten in the head with a hammer and wrench and stabbed in the back by three men who left him for dead. It took months, with constant community pressure spearheaded by the Anti-Violence Project, before the police finally classified the murder as a bias-related incident. Of the three accused, one man, Dennis Doyle, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and is expected to turn state's witness against the other two.



Singin' in the Rain, c. 1991

Matt Forman, executive director of New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, agreed with Lowe and told BLK that he had confidence in the prosecutor's conduct of the case. But Forman added, "I don't have a lot of faith in any straight person's ability to understand the issue of anti-gay violence. This is not just a murder trial. The motive here is different. And I don't have a lot of faith in anyone's ability to make a jury understand that. We're crossing our fingers at this point."

—Eric K. Washington

Study Says Condoms Shunned

SAN FRANCISCO—A significant percentage of heterosexual African-Americans and Hispanics may be putting themselves at risk for AIDS because they don't like or believe in condoms, a University of California San Francisco study has found.

UCSF researchers interviewed nearly 1,800 single non-gay women and men, 20 to 44 years of age, who live in "high risk" neighborhoods of San Francisco. Blacks and Latinos, more than whites, felt that condoms are uncomfortable and immoral, according to the study.

The findings are troubling, because among heterosexuals in the United States, Latinos and African-Americans continue to be disproportionately at risk for AIDS.

Politician Slams Gays, Blacks

PALOS TOWNSHIP, Ill.—Forty percent of U.S. Congressmen may be homosexuals, says Donald Chapman, an elected trustee in Palos Township in southwest suburban Chicago. A township is a governmental entity that provides city-type services to unincorporated county areas.

"If it is true that 40 percent of Congress is homosexual, the country is not long for this world," Chapman wrote in his regular column in the *Regional News*, a 3,000-circulation local newspaper. "It does, however, explain why Congress is so intimidated by the homosexual lobby. It is the most powerful lobby in Washington today."

Chapman also said blacks are not as smart as whites—"it's not even a contest. Any aptitude tests will show whites far ahead. It's no secret that homosexuals back the black movement 100 percent. What about the rest of Congress, the ones that are straight? They are 100 percent behind any legislation that favors blacks, but for a different reason: They know how to count votes."

On Oct. 9, six days after the column appeared, Chapman was fired by the *Regional News*, after six years with the paper. His fellow trustees also called for his resignation. Chapman, however, said he would neither resign nor recant his statements. The other trustees are "Bonzos," he added.

—Rex Wockner

Woman Starts New Business

DALLAS—Black entrepreneur Leslie Despenza-Hale has formed a company to offer erotica for women loving women. Despenza-Hale says Androgyny, Inc. will alleviate a "serious lack of erotica for women in our society. But even more so, there is a total lack of erotica for those of us who love women." Her aim is to achieve levels of sophistication in erotica attained in the gay male commu-

nity.

"Our goal is to portray the beauty of a woman's body and also women loving women as only we can know it—as a beautifully erotic experience that involves all of the human sexes—not just sordid sexual stimuli for future sex acts, as it is portrayed in the heterosexual male magazines," said Despenza-Hale.

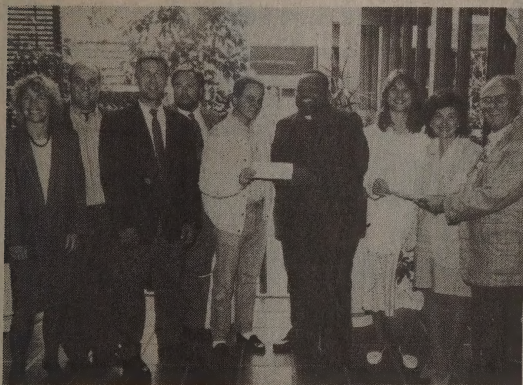
Future projects for Androgyny include a magazine, videos, photo sets, calendars, greeting cards, novels and sexual seminars.

One division of Androgyny will be Bisexual Females for Fun (BIFF), which will host monthly meetings, parties, cruises and trips. "We began an organization to try to take us away from our problems, even if it is only a temporary solution," explained Despenza-Hale. "Life is so short and sometimes you have to take a break from the problems of the universe to smell the roses and enjoy life."

—Mark Haile

AIDS Groups Get Sire Money

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of the National Minority AIDS Council and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation each received \$5,000 from Sire Records' 900 Hot Line, established last year to assist national and local AIDS



Bishop Carl Bean (sixth from left) accepts check from Warner Bros. Records President Lenny Waronker.

organizations. The ceremony was held at Warner Bros. Records Burbank headquarters.

The Sire Records 900-Hot Line allows callers who dial 1-900-990-SIRE to preview and rate new Sire releases, hear the latest release dates and tour information, listen to exclusive interviews with Sire recording artists and participate in contests to win various collectors' items, CDs and concert tickets. All monies earned from the Hot Line go directly to selected AIDS charities.

Jazzers Hold AIDS Benefit

NEW YORK—The Village Gate, long one of the City's most renowned jazz establishments, was host to Jazz Against AIDS on Oct. 7, a benefit performance for the Minority Task Force on AIDS and the National AIDS

Project of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The performance raised over \$7,500 to be shared equally between the two organizations.

"It was a wonderful success," Jacqueline Allen, an organizer of the evening, told BLK. "We hope to make it an annual event."

While AIDS fundraisers have become increasingly common from all sectors of the entertainment industry, Jazz Against AIDS is believed by many to be the first direct response to the health crisis by the jazz community.

Admission prices to the event were appropriately jazzy, too. General admission tickets cost \$35 and select seats for Sponsors or Benefactors and their guests were available at \$150 and \$250. All contributions were tax deductible.

—Eric K. Washington

Blacks Target of Gay Bashers

CHICAGO—At least four black gay men have been victims of or have witnessed gay bashings, the *Windy City Times* has reported. The men did not want their names published for fear of harassment.

The Jeffery Pub, a popular black gay bar on Chicago's south side, has about the third highest concentration of black gay men in the city. The area in which it is located, a middle-class black neighborhood, is not as heavily gay as the strips of white gay bars on the north side area known as New Town. Attacks have been occurring over the past three months.

On Sept. 1, "John," said he was "slammed in the neck with a fist or forearm," causing a bleeding cut. He didn't see who hit him, but he says he saw about 20 teenage boys who had been standing nearby start to run down Jeffery Boulevard.

"Rick," a 45-year-old black gay man, has been going to the Jeffery Pub since the early '70s. He admitted that this past summer anti-gay violence became more pervasive, though he has heard stories of bashings in the past.



"She's always up at the crack of Dawn."



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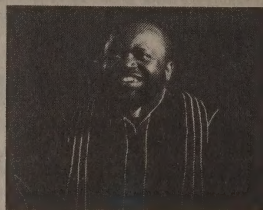
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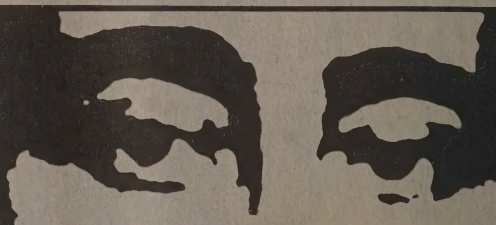
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A heterosexual woman who lives across the street from the bar stated that "almost every weekend" she has seen black gay men beaten for months. "They wait for guys to get out of their cars and then they jump them," she said.

"Rick" said that in mid-July one evening two men looked as though "they'd been beaten, jumped on and sprayed with mace" after going out of the bar and running back in with tattered clothes. He also stated that someone threw a rock through the door window.

The Jackson Park golf course, located about a mile from the Jeffery Pub, is a cruising area at night for black gay men.

"Ron" said on Aug. 9 he was in his car with someone when a group of teenagers smashed the back window with a golf club while surrounding the car. A year ago he was beaten and robbed of a gold chain while in the park. He informed police officers of both attacks and they were unsympathetic, saying that their attitude was, "Well, what are you doing in the park this late?"

"Ron" said that homophobic police officers do nothing about the gay bashings but do arrest people on public sex charges.

—Antonio Sharp

Lowe Takes N.Y. State Post

NEW YORK—Sandra J. Lowe, formerly a staff attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has become the director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns for New York State.

Lowe began as Mario Cuomo's liaison to the gay and lesbian community on Dec. 2, after three years at Lambda working on a range of issues including civil rights, domestic partnership, anti-gay and lesbian violence, and employment discrimination, among others.

One of the key national players in the effort to overturn the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members, Lowe gave direction and energy to Lambda's contribution to that effort. "Lambda was exhilarating, exciting," Lowe stated. "It put me on the cutting edge of the human rights movement, a rare and wonderful vantage point."

"Because of her incredible background, experience, and wisdom, Sandy was a very powerful and important person to the Lambda staff and organizational consciousness," noted Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director. "Even though we will miss her terribly, we all take great pride in her decision to take her myriad skills to state government."

As director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian



Sandy Lowe

TOM TYBURYSKI

Concerns, Lowe told BLK her personal mission for the office would be to achieve "visibility, credibility, passage of the civil rights amendment and domestic partnership."

Lowe dates her career as an activist from the early '60s when she joined the Congress of Racial Equality. She graduated from CUNY Law School in Queens, N.Y. in 1987 and worked as a criminal defense attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia before joining Lambda. Lowe is currently a board member of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Johnson Signs for 3 Books

EW YORK—Basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson has reached agreement with Random House on a multiple book contract, Harold Evans, president and publisher of the Random House Trade Group, announced in December. Johnson will write an autobiography covering his basketball career and personal life culminating with the announcement that he has contracted the HIV virus.

In addition, Johnson, working with former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, will prepare a guide to responsible sexual behavior. All profits from this guide, which is intended to have the widest possible distribution, will go to the newly formed Magic Johnson Foundation to support education, care, and research efforts.

The contents of the third book will be determined at a future time. Evans said, "In a short time, by his courage and vision in the face of his adversity, Magic Johnson has aroused as much admiration among as wide an audience as he has in a lifetime of athletic brilliance."

Johnson was represented in his discussion with Random House by Michael Ovitz, chairman of the Creative Artists Agency, on a *pro bono* basis.

Johnson's autobiography is scheduled for publication by the Fall of 1992. The book will be edited by Peter Osnos, vice president and associate publisher of Random House.

The guide to responsible sexual behavior will be a paperback published by Times Books, a Random House imprint, and it will be available in the spring of 1992. Johnson, a three-time Most Valuable Player award winner of the National Basketball Association, led the Los Angeles Lakers to five world championships and is acknowledged as one of the great sports heroes of the age. He has now won applause, on giving up the game, by devoting his time to spreading the message of responsible sexual behavior and raising funds to assist people with AIDS.

AFA Boycott Targets Listed

UPELO, Miss.—The American Family Association, a right-wing, anti-gay fundamentalist organization, has targeted a number of companies, products and television shows for boycott.

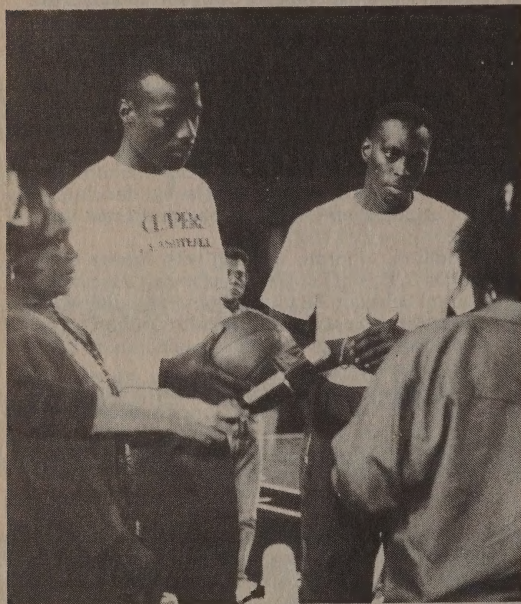
They include Arm and Hammer, General Motors, Alpo, Burger King, Green Giant, Hägen Dazs, Pearl Vision, Ben Gay, Unisom, Visine, Phillip Morris, makers of Birds Eye, Breyers, Brim, Cool Whip, General Foods, Jell-O, Kraft, Lowenbrau, Miller, Marlboro, Oscar Meyer, Parkay, Sanka, Sealtest, Glade, Johnson Wax, Off, Raid, Aspercreme, Slimfast and Toyota.

Television shows include *Doctor Doctor*, *Gabriel's Fire*, *Golden Girls*, *L.A. Law*, *The Hogan Family*, *Life Stories*, *Over*

My Dead Body, The Simpsons, Thanksgiving Day, and thirty-something.
—Mark Haile

L.A. Clippers Enter AIDS Fight

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Clippers have stepped into the AIDS arena by shooting a public service announcement for the Shanti Foundation, becoming the first NBA team to take action against HIV



Loy Vaught and Tony Brown

since Magic Johnson's announcement that he was HIV positive.

The 30-second commercial, taped at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, features Clippers Loy Vaught and Tony Brown. The spot addresses Shanti's safe sex education and HIV counseling services, and urges people to get involved in the fight, telling them that the "ball's in your court."

The commercial is currently being distributed to stations throughout southern California.

Founded in 1983, the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support and education to those affected by life-threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS. Shanti services includes support and education groups, monthly information seminars and one-on-one peer support volunteers.

D.C. Black Pride Set for May

WASHINGTON—History will repeat itself next May when black lesbians and gay men in D.C. hold their second Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day as planned. The event, scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, will pick up where last year's event left off, according to

organizer Carlene Cheatam.

Despite the oppressive heat, hundreds of black lesbians and gay men turned out last year. After the success of the event, groups in other cities announced plans to hold their own local versions.

Proceeds from the event, as last year, will go to organizations that are active in the fight against the spread of AIDS and those that care for AIDS patients.

Next year, organizers plan to extend the festivity to the entire weekend, which culminates with Pride Day, May 24. The weekend, traditionally very popular as black lesbians and gay men from around the nation converge on the District, will kick off with a social May 23 and be followed by a concert.

Events to raise funds for the second annual celebration of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride are planned throughout February, Black History Month.

—Mark F. Johnson

Black Groups at Marathon

NEW YORK—Sensible shoes on a Saturday night? To fight AIDS?

Nona Hendryx, Monie Love, Salt-N-Pepa and 2 in a Room were among the headliners at the second annual AIDS Dance-a-thon which drew thousands on Nov. 30. The five-hour fundraising extravaganza, which took place at the Javits Convention Center in midtown Manhattan and housed 100,000 square feet of dance floor, elaborate lighting and donated refreshments, benefitted the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's oldest and largest AIDS organization.

The Dance-a-thon, which had been promoted by pop star Madonna, was part of a GMHC project called 10 Days/10 Deeds which began Nov. 22 and led up to Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. The campaign's highlight was the city-wide distribution on Nov. 26 of 100,000 condoms and safer-sex flyers during the morning and evening subway rush hours. The Dance-a-thon attracted 7,300 people who raised \$1.6 million for GMHC.

The event was also the New York City site for "Red Hot + Dance," a dance party held simultaneously in numerous cities worldwide on the eve of World AIDS Day. A TV special and album are planned for release next Spring that will feature the parties and performers as well as promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

—Eric K. Washington

New Orgs Spring in Rochester

ROCHESTER—Two new gay organizations for people of color have sprung up like a late harvest this fall in upstate New York. RLOCO (for Rochester Lesbians of Color Organization) and Brothers United both formed independently of each other in Rochester during the final months of last year.

"Our time has come to be seen, heard and known," said Diane Conway who set RLOCO in motion last August by attracting interested lesbians with flyers and advertisements in Empty Closets, the local gay journal. "We've decided to start RLOCO out as a social group first to gather people, and then later we'll look into forming its organization."

Gary English, founder of Brothers United, sees his group as "basically a social group," too, citing that black gays in Rochester are alienated in that town's social scene. "The black gay community is basically underground," English

told BLK.

Daryl Kittelberger, who is president of the group, agreed, asserting that many black gays prefer to drive the extra miles to Buffalo for the nightlife lacking in Rochester. But Kittelberger said, "I see Brothers United as primarily a support group, as well as social.

On Dec. 14, the two groups got together. Brothers United sponsored its first social event at the Gay Alliance, a community space in Rochester. *Tongues Untied*, the award-winning documentary film by Marlon Riggs, was shown at the event, which was followed by a party.

"People came from Ithaca, Syracuse and Buffalo," said Charles Stevens, the group's treasurer, who was happy to note that Brothers United signed up 48 new members that evening. "The oldest member is 57. The youngest is 20," Stevens said. He added, "I think it went over very well."

Conway, who gave a solidarity message to Brothers United, agreed, noting that, while it did not achieve as numerous a roster as did the men's group, RLOCO also benefited from a surge in membership as a result of the event.

The founders of both groups appeared enthusiastic about the prospect of black lesbians and gays finally coming together, not only as a visible contingency of Rochester's mainstream gay community, but as an integral component of the general black community. Both English and Kittelberger hope Brothers United will address AIDS. "There's a lack of knowledge about HIV," said Kittelberger of the general black community in Rochester. "We have people who still believe you can get it from kissing."

—Eric K. Washington

AIDS Money to Black Center

LAS VEGAS—Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) raised more than \$10,000 at a benefit at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas to go, in part, toward developing the African-American Resources Center in West Las Vegas. The project will be a satellite of AFAN operated in conjunction with the Nevada Treatment Center.

Additional funds for the development of the prototype project will come from the AFAN thrift store opening this fall, and the United Way, which has provided \$86,000 in the first eight months of 1991.

Conference Changes Site

LOS ANGELES—The fifth National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes originally scheduled for the Clarion Hotel in Oakland have been moved to the Oakland Airport Hilton, 1 Hegenberger Rd. adjacent to the Oakland Airport. The annual event takes place Feb. 13-17.

Linda Villarosa, a senior editor at *Essence*, and her mother Clara Villarosa, owner of Hue-man Bookstore in Denver will be featured speakers. Other featured speakers include Sherry Harris, Dr. Marjorie Hill, Dr. Billy E. Jones, Sandra Lowe and Dr. Tim Moragne.

The weekend will include an AIDS Institute on Thursday, and four concurrent Institutes on Friday, Women's Issues, Culture, Spirituality and Leadership. Over 50 workshops and caucuses will be presented Saturday and Sunday. Events end on Monday with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's annual meeting.

Social and cultural events include a party at Whispers Thursday evening; a women's reading and party Friday evening; readings from Assoto Saint's *The Road Before Us*, an awards banquet and dance Saturday evening; and a co-gender reading and bus tour of San Francisco Sunday evening.

The Conference and Institutes are a joint venture of the Leadership Forum which is sponsor and Unity Bay Area which is host. Phone number for the event is 213-666-5495.

Skinheads Indicted in Attack

BOSTON—Racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic literature was found on one of three men arrested for attacking two gay men in Boston.

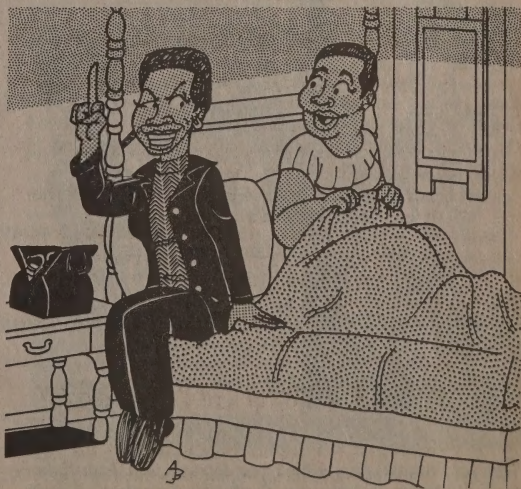
At least two of the men arrested by police, who witnessed the attack, were skinheads. The white supremacist material led to an indictment for civil rights violations causing bodily injury, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison if convicted. Donald Pilkington, Jr., 19, Kenneth E. Anderson, 18, and Matthew R. Caruso, 18, were named in the indictment.

Martina Sees Double Standard

NEW YORK—"If I had the AIDS virus, would people be understanding?" said tennis star Martina Navratilova speaking of Magic Johnson's recent disclosure that he was HIV positive. "No, because they'd say I'm gay I had it coming. That's why they're accepting it with [Johnson] because supposedly he got it through heterosexual contact.

Navratilova spoke Nov. 20 after practice for the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. Her comments were printed in the *New York Post*.

"There have been other athletes who died from AIDS and they were pushed aside because they either got it from



"Just a minute, Doctor. That 'vaginal thermometer' looks like a finger to me."

drugs or they were gay," Navratilova told the *Post*. "That's pretty scary. If it had happened to a heterosexual woman who had been with 100 or 200 men, they'd call her a whore and a slut and the corporations would drop her like a lead balloon. And she'd never get another job in her life."

"It's a very big-time double standard, and it's frightening because it's happening. When it comes to promiscuity, it's very much accepted [among men]. And women are banished."

Dinkins Relents on Needles

NEW YORK—After clearly expressing his opposition to government sponsored needle exchange programs last year, Mayor David Dinkins has had a drastic change of heart. In a reversal of city policy, New York City will establish government endorsed needle exchange programs.

Following Mayor Dinkins's review of official research reports from Yale University and a New Haven-based needle exchange program, which documented decreased AIDS cases after the implementation of such programs, the Mayor conferred with Acting Health Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg who similarly recommended that a needle exchange program be instituted in New York City.

According to the *New York Times*, Mayor Dinkins has called the city's recent support of this somewhat controversial program, "a more aggressive approach by his administration to fight both AIDS and drug abuse."

Prior to the city's drastic turn in policy, ACT-UP had established needle exchange sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan where intravenous drug users were counseled on the twin dangers of using drugs and sharing needles.

Although an official starting date has not been set, the Dinkins Administration has expressed support of programs

—similar to those of ACT-UP—which will provide intravenous drug users with AIDS education and drug counselling. It is a move that both AIDS activists and city officials alike have applauded as a positive and effective measure in slowing the spread of AIDS.

Mayor Dinkins is looking to private organizations to fund the pilot programs which will be run by community groups throughout the city. The American Foundation for AIDS Research has announced that it will donate \$300,000 for four pilot programs, which will include one New York City locale. In addition to soliciting financial assistance from private foundations, the city will select community groups which will be given State Department of Health Waivers enabling them to exchange needles when necessary.

Other cities which have already implemented government sponsored needle exchange programs include: Honolulu, Hawaii; Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington.

—LaRose Parris

BMX Holds Cultural Gathering

OAKLAND—The Black Men's Xchange (BMX) and the African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI) have announced plans for their 1992 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat. The event will take place Feb. 14-16, the same weekend as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference.

BMX, which was founded in Los Angeles by Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson in 1989 for "black men who love men," sports chapters in seven cities across the country. The group, headquartered in Oakland, Calif., now also includes activities open to women and non-people of color.

HIV/AIDS will be the focus on Friday when AMASSI considers outreach strategies, treatment and counseling services that have been effective in black male, women's and children's communities. Education and prevention programs and activities in African-American communities will also be considered. The events, collectively titled "African-Americans Living in the Age of AIDS: a Celebration of Life," will take place at Providence Auditorium, 3100 Summit St.

On Saturday at Humanist Hall, BMX will host a series of events focusing on community, Afrocentrism and empowerment. The Hall is located at 320 27th St. A party and fundraiser, "Let Us Admire Your African Attire," is scheduled for Saturday night at Bella Napoli, 2330 Telegraph. The conference ends on Sunday with a retreat for existing and prospective BMX chapters.

BMX can be reached at 800-821-5143.

Johnson to Begin Taking AZT

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (UPI)—Retired Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson will begin taking AZT to combat the HIV virus upon his return from vacation according to his agent, Lon Rosen. AZT, one of two drugs approved by the federal government for use in AIDS treatment, has come under fire from some AIDS researchers who doubt its effectiveness.

"He will begin treatment when he returns," Rosen said at the Forum recently. "It's not critical, or else he wouldn't be on vacation, but he wants to start it. The reason he's not starting it now is because he needs to be monitored while he's taking it."



"Federal Bureau of Sensitivity, sir. It seems that last night you neglected to comment on the bearnaise sauce William spent three hours preparing yesterday. You have the right to remain silent..."

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

GWEN ALEXANDER, died Aug. 24 of complications related to AIDS as reported in the *Washington Blade*. After graduating high school, Alexander studied cosmetics in New York and Maryland. Her expertise with cosmetics enabled her to work as a makeup artist and model. She was a well-known entertainer, pageant winner and recipient of many awards including the Best Professional Entertainer Award from the Academy Awards of Washington. She was 36.

JESSE 'JAY' BLACK, JR., died July 21, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Black, born June 2, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio lived in New York for a time and settled finally in San Francisco in 1974. In 1976, Black enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent much of his tour in Guam. After active duty he stayed on with the Naval Reserve. From 1980 until his death he was employed by Pacific Bell. Black was 46.

RICHARD A. BOYDSTON, a Rochester resident, died of complications associated with AIDS. Boydston appeared internationally as a dancer and received many honors. He is survived by his mother and friends from California to New York. He was 24.

TIM DOLLSON, died of AIDS related complications in June as reported in the *Mom, Guess What!* newspaper. Dollson was a resident of Sacramento from birth, although he lived briefly in Minnesota and San Francisco. He was employed by various organizations, the last being the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn. Dollson, known to be an excellent dancer, was 31.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DUNHAM, born Jan. 14, 1960, died Aug. 19 of cancer. Dunham served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 31.

GORDON TYRONE DUNN, died Aug. 15 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Born during 1955 in North Carolina, Dunn attended school and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. In 1981, receiving an honorable discharge, Dunn moved to Washington where he worked for MCI. Active in the community, he volunteered with the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's campaign office. He was 36.

CLEVELAND GATES, JR., died Aug. 30 of AIDS complications. Born Mar. 6, 1958 in Chicago, Gates completed high school and worked as a general contractor. A segment of his work was featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. Moving to Florida for a few years, Gates worked as a manager for the Club Bath chain. Returning to Chicago, he was an active volunteer with several organizations and was the television spokesperson for Bonaventure House. Gates was also active in the '80s with BWMT as reported in the *Chicago Gay Times*. He was 35.

TONY HUGHES, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

ERNEST A. JOHNSON, born Aug. 9, 1954 in Washington, D.C. died Sept. 14, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. After receiving his B.S. in 1976 from Ferris State University, Johnson worked for General Motors corporate headquarters. In 1980, he moved to San Francisco and was employed by Pacific Bell, he also worked as a loan officer. He is survived by his lover of eight years, Brian Dezzani.

DWIGHT E. JORDAN, drowned in Arizona while inner tubing in a river on Sept. 6 as reported by *In Step*. Known for entertaining, Jordan toured the U.S. and Canada. He was 36.

JOHN W. KEMP, died Aug. 1 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He was 44. Born Aug. 4, 1943 and raised in Detroit, Kemp moved to San

Francisco in 1981. An MBA graduate of Harvard, he worked as chief financial officer for North Coast Industries and was president of OMCOA among his varied positions. During the '60s Kemp was a member of the Capitols and sang with them for sometime.

HENRY LOVETT, born Oct. 30, 1958, died Sept. 23 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Metrolink*. Born in Georgia, Lovett moved to Conn. where he lived and worked until his death. Employed in the food service industry, he worked for T.G.I. Friday's for 11 years, as well as Mr. Steak and the Great American Cafe. He was 32.

MARTIAL-RIO, died Nov. 15 of AIDS complications. A Los Angeles resident for over 20 years, he was a hair stylist for 11 years with such clients as Natalie Cole and Diahann Carroll before he established a public relations business. A board member of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Martial-Rio was the PWA coordinator for two of the annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences and volunteered for the Minority AIDS Project. He is survived by his lover, Bill Weinberg, and uncle, Leonard Simon.

KENNETH A. MARTIN, died July 29 of complications associated with AIDS. Born June 1, 1962 in Chicago, Martin was educated at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and went on to receive his B.A. from Illinois State University as well as his teaching certificate in Spanish. Teaching high school from 1985-89, Martin left and accepted a position at Test Positive Awareness. From 1989 until his death, Martin was executive director of TPA, an outreach worker for BE-HIV and an active client of AAHP as reported in *Gay Chicago*. He was 29.

ERNEST MILLER, a 24-year-old member of BWMT-Milwaukee, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

JEFFREY PATRICK, 39, died Aug. 9 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. In 1982, Patrick received his B.A. from the University of D.C. and began work as an accountant at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Patrick was a member of the theater group, Encore, and appeared in many productions. He produced and directed *Feeling Good All Over*. Patrick founded COCON a network of friends across the country. Through the county recreation department he instructed modern dance classes for children.

FREEMAN POLLARD, died July 31 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. A native of Alabama, Pollard graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 and from New York University in 1967. Moving to D.C. in 1971, he worked for the National Urban League. From 1978-82 he lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya for Planned Parenthood. When he returned to the U.S., Pollard worked as a consultant until his retirement last year. He was a collector of African art and a lover of baroque music. He was 49.

KELSEY PULLIAM, a native of Virginia died July 31 as reported in the *Washington Blade* of AIDS associated complications. With a bachelor of art's degree and a bachelor of science degree he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Moving to D.C. in 1978 he worked as a payroll coordinator for two government agencies while pursuing a second master's degree in business administration. As a bodybuilder Pulliam won many contests. He was 39.

RAYMOND PUGH, a soloist and choir director at Rev. T. L. Barrett's Church of Chicago died last year. He worked for more than 14 years as a customer service representative for a telephone communication company as reported in *Gay Chicago* magazine. Pugh had a love for designer clothes and furniture.

RAFAEL ROMAN, born Oct. 24, 1946, died Nov. 4, of AIDS related complications. He was 45. Roman was a founding board member of Community Health Project of New York where he worked as a volunteer for ten years. He is survived by his lifemate, Michael Dupre.

SHANE, died July 3 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Chiron Rising*. A 47-year-old New Yorker, he was an author and wrote many pieces of published fiction.

EDWARD SMITH, a BWMT-Milwaukee member was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

CURTIS STRAUTER, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

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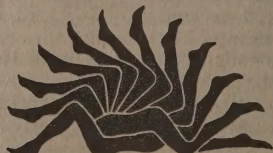
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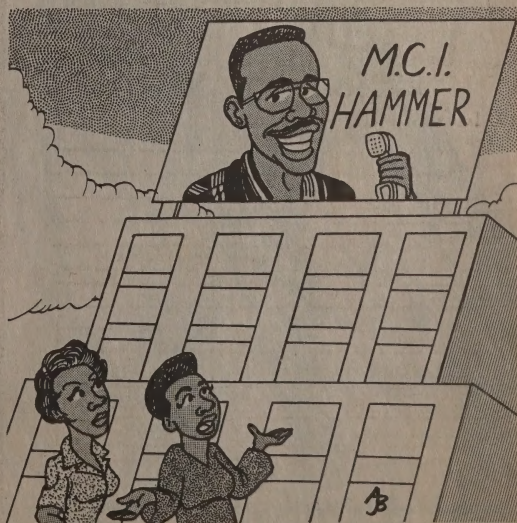
BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Basgo's was the unofficial headquarters of Black and Brown Men Together during L.A.'s **Sunset Junction Street Fair**. We saw one of our favorite future husbands, **Bill Meredith**, roaming the fair side-by-side with gonna-be mayor **Mike Woo** who carefully shoe-horned his waxwork of a wife into every photo taken of him, lest anyone suspect Mike of pitching woo at one of the boys in that seething throng of same-sex strollers. Gay Chorus baritone **John Logan** was also there, just back from a singing tour through Europe where, he says, the natives wore him out beseeching private performances of John's, er, "rhythm-and-moves"... Struttin' his bulgin' stuff all over the nation these days is "**D**"**Cannon**, the Paul Bunyan of Gay Blackdom, aka Mr. International Leather, who tells anybody he catches whining about racism that he's never experienced discrimination in the gay leather scene. Well, we guess *not* with those pecs and that whip!...Guess what other leatherqueen decided to crash a meeting of L.A.'s **Arab Gays**, only to discover that other brothers also showed up in hopes of being dragged off to Araby by a desert sheik? Turns out that there were enough Valentino look-alikes down for adding a Queen of Sheba to their harems so no catfights ensued. Meeeoow!...What's old and white and goes down the minute the sun sets? "Camp Mae West" is really just the name of the retreat L.A.'s **BWMTers**

escape to every summer near Lake Arrowhead. We hear they do all sorts of campy things like ride (horses), get high (mountain climbing) and eat (wienies and buns). Then there are the *indoor* activities designed to break down, uh, interracial barriers. *Lawd*, how them walls come tumblin' down... Speakin' of BWMT, we hear it has all but ceased to exist as a national organization since its last convention. Oh, it's still got chapters everywhere, but the Nat'l Assn's statement of purpose has been changed to read, "NABWMT is a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization" instead of "interacial organization." Victory tastes sweet when it's been a long time coming and the **MACT/NYers** have been nagging the national organization for years to shift focus from being a safe space for blacks and whites to date and mate to becoming a gay Third World-oriented coalition. They'd switch the biracial name to a multiethnic one if they could without forfeiting their late founder's \$300,000 legacy... A phoenix did arise from the convention's pyre: BWMT/Philly founder **Jerry (the Red) Mallon** released the updated *Anti-racism Manual-an Action Guide* just months before his death. He said he'd do it and he delivered on his word as always. Sweet sleep, Jerry...Ditto our beloved friends **Craig Harris** and **Ken Marshall**, both warriors for the cause...Avowed—but not verified—heterosexual

Keith Antar Mason and **the Ms. Vaginal Creme Davis** performed together at a Beyond Baroque Benefit in September. Vadge did Club Lingerie, more familiar turf, in August...Get your carnival drag off the rack, girlfriends, 'cuz Rio de Janeiro has joined Bahia in outlawing discrimination against homosex at last! Of course we hear that the closet is stuffed too full for most gays and lesbians to sashay out despite the new law. Well we'll just have to caravan on down there and show'em how to take advantage of their new freedom. Oooh, We just *adore* rummaging through other people's closets! But careful, police in Rio may still arrest you for "indecent contact," while transvestites have to carry special ID cards (Wait, does that mean those buffed Brazil-

ian cops are easily deceived? Honey, we're on our way!)...**Pomo Afro Homos** (whose act is *almost* as *avant garde* as their name and who dish dirt nearly as well as *yours truly*) hit New York at Dance Theater Workshop's Bessie Schonberg Theater Oct. 3-13...Our favorite cable program last summer was watching AB 101 pass in Sacramento on Cal-Span's coverage of California democracy in action. It's more entertaining than most of what's on the telly (especially **Miss Willie** in her *big chair bangin'* her gavel and tellin' all those Republicans to behave or be 'bucked. The Speaker sho' do look like he's having a good time up there). Of course, **Petey the Teenie Weenie** was smart enuf not to have the cameras rolling when he



"Looks like rap has gone mainstream."

vetoed AB101! The Gov of the Golden (Shower) State sez he was busy all day on Oct. 11 when the demos came to town, and that he didn't hear a peep out of the 7,000 demonstrators. Yeah, right. L.A. activists **Debra Johnson, Bill Meredith and Warren Sims** were spotted in the crowd, and we know they know how to be heard. **Phill Wilson and Charles Stewart's** bosses sent them up for the Black Caucus hearings going on inside the Capitol but they escaped and joined the yelling crowd outside...It's getting easier to keep our resolve not to break our tiresome diet, what with **Taco Bell, Domino's, Kentucky Fried Chicken** and now **Pizza Hut**, all accused of

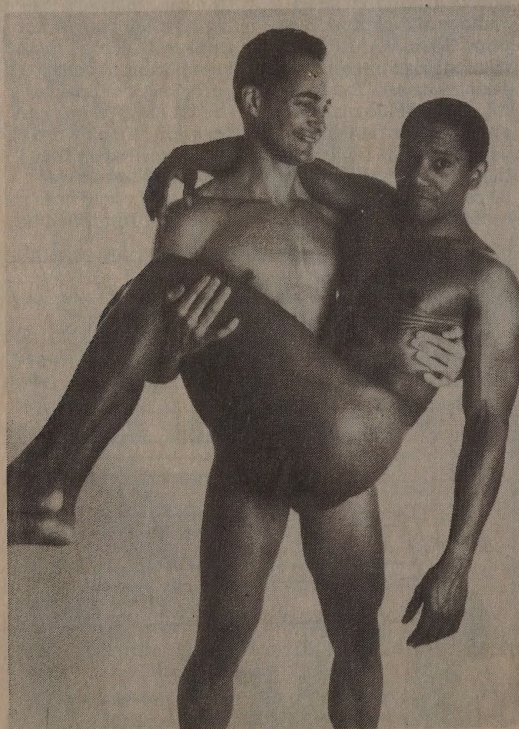
firing HIV positive employees. If you're trying to keep track, **Wendy's** has apologized to the gay community, and **Burger King** is now not only gay supportive, but *they* are being made the target of a boycott by the far right, so when you have to cheat and eat, do be politically correct about it. And just forget about the **Cracker Barrel** for a while, unless, of course, you'd like to drop in for a nice, long, leisurely glass of ice water, say, for an hour or so, with hmmm, say 100 of your closest friends. Sounds like a '60s sit-in, you say? Don't worry, the folks at the MLK Center in 'lanta have trained monitors to make sure the cops don't think it's the '60s, too...Poetry Festival: Seven days of les-

bian and gay readings during the third annual Los Angeles Poetry Festival included an evening of African-American *griots* (poets) Oct. 23 at Jewel's Catch One. Those reading from their works included **Adrienne, Amoke, Harry Gibson, Mark Halle, Precious, Tamu and Jerome Woods...**

Difficult to believe that **R. Couri Hay's** column on how to exploit and take advantage of disenfranchised youth received nary a letter to the *Advocate*, but with the fuss over the muss of outing the Pentagon's **Pete Williams**, sheesh, we guess they didn't have space to print letters on anything else. The only mention of the rather tasteless and inherently racist column—part two of which mysteriously never ran—came from equally tasteless and inherently racist **Michael Musto** (the "queer" columnist for the *Village Voice*, with whom we'd never engage in a drinking match). Musto found fault that the "ultra-correct" Hetrick-Martin Institute had turned down a premiere of *The Black Lizard*, an early '60s camp film of Yukio Mishima from Japan. Sniped Musto, "Maybe if it had been called *Lizard of Color*?" Is Michael sneaking up to Harlem to "get some" after dissing people of color (especially after cocktails, and before bragging about straight men)...**BWMT/Milwaukee, Club Muse and Lesbians of Color** pooled talents for a picnic Aug. 18, at the Dineen Park Pavilion. The picnic was a needed diversion in the wake of a long, tragic summer for Milwaukee's gay men of color...The new TV season brought more black faces to the tube. And even **Star Trek** is going to beam in some gay folk from up in outer space somewhere. But black lesbians

and gays? Prime time can still only stand our stuff when it's ridiculed in comedy—not, mind you, that we don't love our sisters **Antoine and Blaine** dearly for their supreme self-regard! And you wonder why we turn off the TV and read, (or go dancing when our culture-diva friends aren't looking)...At the second annual Open and Out Festival in L.A., **Colette Jackson** presented a two-part-one woman show, *Visions of a Mixed Child*, on the experience of being a multi-racial black, and *Coming Out in the Bible*, a retelling of stories of the Bible using black English that reveals gay affirmative content...**Lawrence Petty, Cleo Manago and David Bruce** celebrated their birthday Sept. 21 in a combined fête attended by 45 people. Among the luminaries in attendance were **Stanley Bennett Clay and Devre Jackson...** Chicago Transit Authority officials consider being HIV positive as a disability. Don't get offended, chile, get even! Pick up your special reduced busfare card, good on regional transportation systems, too. Call 312-561-9661 for details...**MACT/Chicago** celebrated its 11th anniversary at the **Annex 3**. Miss Gay Wisconsin, **Echo Chambers** was MC for the show...**BWMT/DC** held its 11th Oct. 11 in Crystal City...**Triangle MACT** said hello to its fifth Nov. 1...N.Y.C.'s **Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee** sponsored a festivity even chewier than the group's name with its \$12-a-plate Harvest Feast Nov. 15. Flyers for the event warned that the celebration was not to be confused with the European-American Thanksgiving holiday. 'scuse it!...Next stop: the conferences in Oakland, California!

MARK STUDNEY



The outside cover of greeting cards mailed to friends in December by black gay author Larry Duplechan and his lover Greg Harvey. Inside, the card read, "Thank you, Santa!" Hmmm. Who gave who what?

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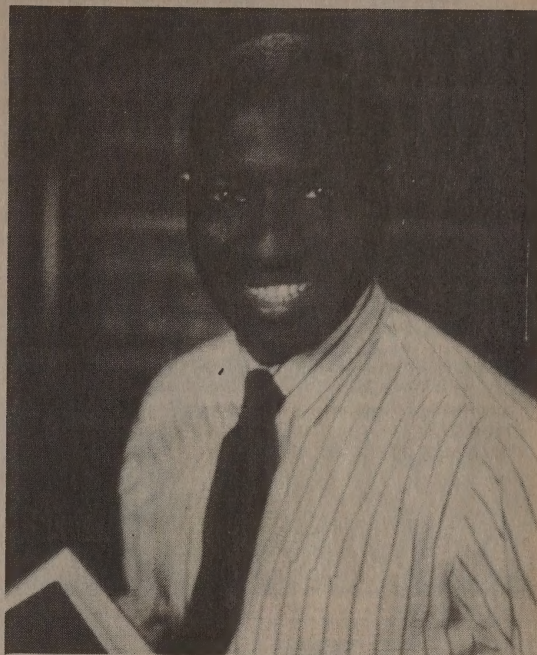
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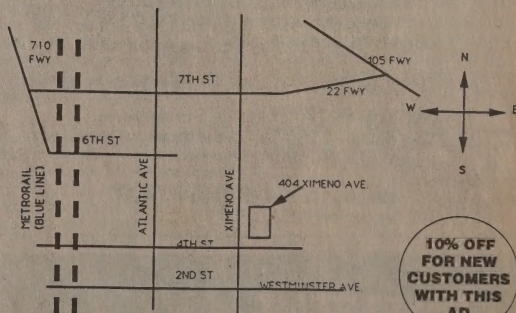
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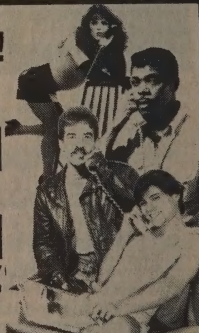
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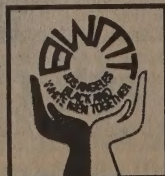
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers needed for face-casts, and for signature gathering. QueerNET/SF proudly announces that we have begun working on our very first public art project, entitled "The Faces of Discrimination." It will feature colorful plaster faces of people who have been fired for being queer. QueerNET/SF will display this work in a sidewalk visible window located at 1590 Market Street, in front of the offices of QueerNET/SF and of the Northern California Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Equality. The Coalition group is working towards placing an initiative on the California ballot banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, similar to the AB101 measure vetoed by Governor Wilson in September of 1991. QueerNET is looking for volunteers to cast their faces in plaster to help create this 3-dimensional art extravaganza. We would like this display to be as culturally diverse as possible, so tell all your queer friends. The Coalition is also looking for volunteers to gather signatures for the lesbian, gay and bisexual employment protection initiative (AB101). Get involved. Call our office or stop by at: QueerNET/SF, 1590 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-252-5914. (35)

Attention musicians: drummer and bass player needed for progressive, recording male vocal group. Must be experienced in R&B, gospel, jazz. Also auditioning 1st tenors & bass vocalists. For more information call: 213-484-9558. (42)

Get your SAG card in months, not years. Find out how! SASE: Central Research, Box 3863, L.A., CA 90078. (34)

The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of NYC is looking for talented, hard-working and dedicated individuals to fill vacancies on its Board of Directors. In order to achieve the goal of an ethnically and racially diverse board, the Center particularly encourages applications from people of color. Directors perform a variety of volunteer functions, most importantly fundraising and policy making for the Center. Requirements for board membership include: willingness to fundraise; experience with other lesbian and gay, nonprofit, or community-based groups; and commitment to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our community. To apply, send a resume or letter outlining your work and community experience, and request an application form. Deadline for application: February 14, 1992. Two-year terms will begin in spring 1992. Send to: Board Search Committee, Attn: Paula Marinac, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St., New York, NY 10011. (35)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will

enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

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Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

Eddie Smith Hairstyling for men and women, 7115 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046 (1/2 block west of La Brea). 213-874-7210 work, 213-462-1220 home. Conditioning, coloring, relaxers, perms, jheri curls, hair extensions. Featuring Nexus products. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Call for an appointment. Your satisfaction in hair care. (TF)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (E)

ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Humanist? Atheist? Agnostic? The Gay and Lesbian Freethought Forum meets monthly. GLFF is also involved in education and actions. Info: GLFF, Box 15803, LA, CA 90015 or 310-473-7302. (35)

Club F—Frottage. Multicultural social group for frottage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

The West Indian Social Connection asks: "Would you like to get back to your roots?" Further information, call 213-962-6867 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and leave a message. (34)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/rappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopack \$3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (35)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. 140. (E)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Manager. The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is looking for a qualified Accounting Manager. The ideal candidate will possess an accounting degree, minimum 2 years supervisory experience, and four years as a staff accountant or higher. Thorough knowledge of computerized accounting packages and spread-sheet programs a must. Non-profit grant accounting experience a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send a resume and cover letter to: GLCSC-Personnel, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (35)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (34)

African-American models over 18 wanted for all-male adult videos. Looking for at least one of the following: great body, gorgeous face or generous endowment. J/O only or participate with partner. Beginners OK. If you don't like the scene we shoot, or if you change your mind, we forget the whole thing. Have fun and make money. Call Scott Chandler at 213-338-9695, or send your picture to Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Bookkeeper. Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education, and care seeks a bookkeeper to work

under supervision of the Controller for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Bookkeeper will maintain daily and quarterly fiscal records, prepare audit documentation and provide technical assistance to administrative staff. Applicant should hold an undergraduate degree in accounting or business, or have strong, relevant experience in the public and/or non-profit sector. Good record keeping skills and computer literacy is required. Please send cover letter and resume to: Gay Men of Color Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 1800 Argyle #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027, Attn: Elizabeth. 213-462-2273. (35)

Clinical Psychologist. 3+ years licensed, experienced only. Treat hospital patients and supervise 3 psychological assistants. Full time only. Exciting. Salary/benefits. 213-664-5000. (35)

Counselor. Qualified counselors needed immediately. Experienced and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 818-356-0027. (34)

Curator. The 1992 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival seeks a guest curator for lesbian/women's programming. This is a temporary part-time training/skill-building position that offers a stipend of \$3,000. Qualified candidates should have knowledge of contemporary lesbian film/video and possess strong administrative skills. Experience with other film festivals a definite plus. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter to: Frameline Curator, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Distribution assistant. Frameline, a non-profit lesbian/gay film and video organization, seeks a part-time distribution assistant. Responsibilities include booking films, distributing press kits, invoicing, shipping, accounts receivable, correspondence, answering telephone inquiries and maintaining client contacts. 20 hours per week. Salary \$10-12K DOE. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to: Frameline Distribution Assistant, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Grassroots Organizer. Proven organizer needed for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Work at state and local level in the areas of civil rights, sodomy repeal, military and anti-gay/lesbian violence. Salary range \$28,000-35,000 plus generous benefits. Cover letter and resume by Feb. 21 to: NGLTFPI, Attn: Grassroots Organizer Search, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. An EEO. (35)

Houseman. Young, honest, hard-working houseman wanted by retired professional single man in Palm Springs for part-time job: four hours per day to clean house, care for yard and pool. Small salary plus free use of separate one-bedroom fur-

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nished condo. Extra salary and possible full-time job if you have driving, cooking, massage or other skills. After six months I will pay for your books and tuition at local college if you want further education. References required. (35)

Interns. *Harper's Magazine* is accepting applications from college students and graduates for its internship program. Interns serve full time on an unpaid basis for three to five months and get practical experience in critical reading and analysis, research, fact-checking, and the general workings of a national magazine. Each intern works with an editor on one section of the magazine, takes part in the creation of the *Harper's Index*, and is encouraged to generate ideas, read widely, and approach problems creatively. For further information and an application, call 212-614-6500. (35)

Medical/clinical administrator. New clinic. Community clinic knowledge helpful. Manager/nursing background a plus. Knowledge of procedure mandatory. Experienced only. Computer experience. Motivated and organized. Don Levy, 213-259-5675. (34)

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Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call the Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Coordinator. Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, a Los Angeles-based non-profit agency, is currently seeking to fill the position of Project Coordinator for its Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education and care. The Project Coordinator will oversee the operation of all program components for the eight member consortium. The qualified applicant will also develop media strategies, act as link between consortium

members, public, private and community health organizations, and should also have fund raising and public relations skills. A college degree is desirable. However, individuals with relevant experience and a strong commitment to fighting AIDS/HIV among people of color are encouraged to apply. The annual salary for this position is \$24,000 (70% time). Please send cover letter and resume to: Phill Wilson, Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. 213-666-5495. (35)

Project Director. The San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS is accepting resumes for the position of Project Director for the Rafiki Services Project, a program to train volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to African Americans with HIV/AIDS. People of color, sexual minorities, women, disabled people and HIV infected people are encouraged to apply. For more information call 415-346-2364 or write to 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115. (35)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basic expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

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Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1½ bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, private room with telephone jack and wired for cable. \$400/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (34)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Front Room Theatre, Seattle's theatre by

and about lesbians, will be accepting scripts for consideration in January, February, and March of 1992. We are seeking scripts by lesbians, with lesbian character(s) and theme. We aim to produce two or three shows a season during '92 and '93, with at least one play per season by and about lesbians of color. We would also love to produce one or more musicals per season. Sharpen your pencils and limber up your word processors, sisters! For submission details, call 206-233-8457. Mail scripts to FRT, 1202 E. Pike #335, Seattle, WA 98122. (35)

Unpublished work wanted for anthology, "Snap! Black Gays and Lesbians Tell It!" Looking for quality and style on a n-y aspect of black gay and lesbian life: first-person essays, fiction (7 pages maximum double-spaced), interviews of non-celebrities (elders particularly desired). There will be no response without an SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with adequate postage. Also, if possible, provide black and white photograph of yourself. Example topics: work, God, coming out, masturbation, fashion, language and music, food, Momma, houseparties, divas, bars, the streets and the news, dental dams, answering machines...life! Send to: Terri Jewell Box 23154, Lansing, MI 48909. (35)

Encyclopedia articles needed. Collier Books division of MacMillan Publishing has decided to bring out a \$20, 650-page trade paperback *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* for a mass readership. This will be based on Garland Publications' 2-volume *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, abridged, revised, and with the addition of new entries. I am looking for scholars interested in writing short pieces for the new work on areas in which they are or could become knowledgeable. The emphasis will be on basic facts, with some discussion of theories, but with a minimum of ideology and abstruse academic controversies; on language accessible to the average reader, and on topics of general rather than purely scholarly interest. Not only will new subjects be covered (we will especially need biographical entries on living people and geographical-historical entries on cities and countries), but replacements will be sought for some of the entries in the Garland work. I especially want to encourage women, bisexuals, and members of minority groups to contribute. Some suggested entry topics (new and replacements) include: African-Americans, Alvin Ailey, S.R. Delaney, interracial, B. Rustin, Bessie Smith (write for full list to date). If you are interested in submitting a new entry, or believe you can improve on any existing entry in the Garland volumes, please contact: Stephen Donaldson, Editor-in-Chief, CEOH, 3147 Broadway #12A, New York, NY 10027. 212-666-0344. (35)

Conference Paper submissions. "Making It Perfectly Queer," the second national

interdisciplinary graduate student conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2-4, 1992. Presentations should be 8-10 pages long. People of color are encouraged to both submit proposals and attend the conference. Please submit 1-page proposals for paper by January 15, 1992, to: Cris Mayo, Department of Education Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 360 Education Bldg., 1310 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61801. (35)

Fiction, poetry, short dramas wanted. Anthology of creative writing by young gays, lesbians, and bisexuals seeks submissions. The anthology, *From Now On*, is committed to principles of balance: between men and women, among all races and ethnicities, and to artistic balance of genres, and will also consider previously published work. Send submissions with SASE and short bio to: Michael Lowenthal, Box A-164, Hanover, NH 03755. (35)

Essay contest. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Los Angeles, in support of Coming Out Day, October 11th, is sponsoring an essay contest for a first person account of a coming out experience. The coming out experience may be the writer's own or a significant person in their life, i.e. a sibling, parent or friend. The contest winners will receive cash awards of \$500, \$300, \$200 and will be announced at the PFLAG 16th year birthday party in May 1992. The contest is open to all Los Angeles County college students. People of color are encouraged to apply. For information call 213-373-4387 or write: PFLAG Essay Contest, Box 701, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. (35)

Looking for another L.L. Cool J, Queen Latifah, Markey Mark or Keith Sweat. Soliciting gay/queer-positive rap/industrial/ballads. Send demo tapes, lyric sheets to: Precipice Demos, 975 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131. (35)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteless work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKLIFE, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

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Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (35)

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You may place a printed personal ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE if you also place a FREE message on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS. Call toll-free 1-800-937-7928 to record your personal greeting. Your FREE ad and FREE personal greeting may not include a phone number or address.

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Personals which don't qualify for free and all other ads (except employment) are paid at the rate of 40¢ per word. Employment ads are 10¢ per word. Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Minimum for credit card billing is \$15. Do not send cash. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad.

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TO PLACE A **FREE** TALKING PERSONALS AD CALL 1-800-937-7298

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jockoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (35)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncult men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042. State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

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The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (37)

Come relax and enjoy a professional full body massage by a caring young black male in a private, safe environment. Great massage, reasonable rates. Jack, 213-419-1145. (37)

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, \$5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Dale by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-

900-726-2040 (\$2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/six months, \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal, all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. ♀ 1035. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. ♀ 145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

BGM, slightly chubby, cut, 23 yrs, 6'4½", closeted. You must be cut, hung 8+", masculine, muscular, single, tall (6'+), coffee-dark skin, age 25-40, HIV+ no AIDS unless celibate, like black gay porn. You must be in San Francisco, Washington D.C., L.A., or Texas area. Dele Alade, 87 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (36)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded, very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multi-cultural, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Altan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black

male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. ♀ 1019. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

White buns seek hung black stud who, like myself, is HIV-, drug free, sincere. Age, looks unimportant. I'm 5'8", 150, mature, live near Oakland. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (35)

My black playmate has moved away and I need to suck black dick on regular basis. Am WM, goodlooking, fit, HIV-. Your place, some weekdays OK. Write Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (35)

GWM, 40s, 6', 180#, HIV+, 8", blond, blue, wants GBM into kinky imaginative scenes, making love, exhibitionism, voyeurism, nasty letters, phone sex, open. Write 1800 Market St. #230, San Francisco, 94102. (35)

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, home-bodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. ♀ 1047. (35)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. ♀ 1000. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. ♀ 1045. ♀ 141. (35)

San Diego Area

Mature, professional, fun-loving GBM, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B., 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone J/O submissive seeks domina-

tor. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert topman (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, GrP/FrA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GP/FrA top for friendship? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. ♀ 1040. (35)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

WM, 53, 5'9", 170, leather love, Zeff. ♀ 3101. (35)

37-year-old blond, 37, 160#, 5'11". William ♀ 3113. (35)

Very attractive GWM, 28, 5'10", 175, brbr, looking to meet extremely heavyset black guys (300#+) for really hot times and friendship. Joe Acovedo, 837 Appellby, Venice, CA 90291. ♀ 1019. (35)

GWM likes to service black studs with nice firm butts. Sit on my face. Get down and dirty and humiliate me with your manhood. POB 86651, LA, CA 90086. Grunt! (35)

White male, 50s, 6', 179#, seeks relationship. Very affectionate, HIV-. Call Will 818-362-2022, or write Box 1252, San Fernando, CA 91340. (35)

Handsome, educated, successful mulatto, 36, 6'1", 180#, seeks young, gorgeous mulatto playmate/companion. Healthy body a must. Muscles, hung, under 25 a plus. Quality not quantity. 310-301-1666. (35)

Attractive, muscular, European, smart guy, 31, 5'10", 175#, uncult, seeks tall, very muscular and massive, black or white, intelligent bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for body worship, friendship. 213-656-2942. (35)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weightroom. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a +. ♀ 1052. (37)

Muscular GBM. Handsome, nice build, 31, 6', 190#. Independent, fun loving and affectionate. Seeking possible relationship. You: 5'9" or taller, nice build, independent

Respond to ads with a ✉ by mail. All mail is forwarded FREE.

Write the ✉ number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

and seeking same. Call Ryan. ✉ 1001/37
GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, musical, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. ✉ 3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thing. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. ✉ 3026. (37)

Latino, 31, 6', 185#, looking for GBM 35-45, small built, into ranch S/M, split, W/S. Please call, sir. 818-284-0770. (35)

Friends, mixed couples, wanted by black/Mexican couple, midforties, for friendship and fun. We enjoy all kinds of movies that could be interchanged. Your picture gets ours. Box 19543, LAX, CA 90019-0543. (35)

My name is Jarvis: BGM, 40, 5'8", 140#. Don't be fooled by my size and age. I work out seriously. Prof. Hobbies: photography, art, philosophical discourse. Ex and current military guys are a plus. I want a friend who balances intellectual pursuits with physical fitness. ✉ 3027. (37)

An attractive Middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (35)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a Top sexually. Let me hear from you. ✉ 3031. (37)

GBM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. ✉ 3066. (37)

Black man interested in meeting other third world black men for mutual friendship and more. Your photo gets mine. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (35)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. ✉ 3038. (37)

Built WM, 33, 160#, G/P, masculine yet desire classic feminine role: nurturing, home life, cooking, cleaning, panties, etc., seeks macho black topman who is confident, affectionate and happy. ✉ 158/35. (37)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30 yr old GBM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well built brother that's not fem or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and travelling. ✉ 3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine topman, any race. ✉ 3106. (37)

GBM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swim-

mer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. ✉ 3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9/4", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. ✉ 3025. (37)

If you're BLK and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim: 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (35)

GWM, handsome senior, top, needs to be body-worshipped, submissive OK. Wet tonight, big mouth under 50, any race. No J.O., action only. Be prepared. Give phone # before 10 p.m.: 310-657-2804. (35)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. ✉ 3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. ✉ 1027. ✉ 148. (36)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. ✉ 3100. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped GBM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40+. Let's float, let's glide as inside you ride. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. ✉ 1030. (34)

GWM, seeks BGM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationshiplover. Joe. ✉ 1022. ✉ 149. (37)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

GBM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No fats, fems. Photos a plus. ✉ 1020. ✉ 151. (35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-256-6833. (35)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, mustachioed, professional, easy-going,

sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscular defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must! Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. ✉ 1025. ✉ 152. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football-player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, aggressive and versatile for fun and friendship. ✉ 1023. ✉ 153. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive BGM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc, prof. Send # to 717-106, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Prof. BGM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open. P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A., CA 90078. (35)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncut HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. ✉ 146. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

GBM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. ✉ 1036. ✉ 147. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+#+ sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-filling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM 30 yrs, quiet type, seeks GBM 25 yrs. ✉ 1008. ✉ 157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O. Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. ✉ 1001. (35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

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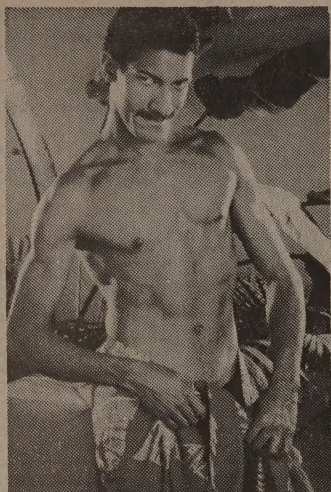
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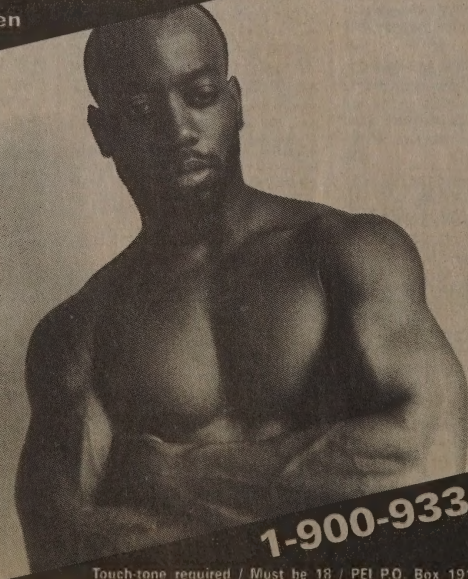
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MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. (36)

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Masculine, hung GBM. POB 10630, Chicago, IL 60610-0630. (35)

J.C. Jr., handsome G/blk/M, seeks pleasure. Write 1607 S. Sawyer, Chicago, IL 60623. (35)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tall and/or into active/passive butt licking. Write: Bob, Box 708744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½ and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, Louisiana 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Nubian for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nights or messages. (35)

GWM, 29, 6'1", 190#, seeks hairy and/or hung BM tops coming to Boston for hot sexual encounters or letter exchange. Tim, Box 718, Sudbury, MA 01776. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ☐ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/Weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny T, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No fats/fems. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff. ☐ 1013. ☐ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Versatile body-builder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211

Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barely or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof., clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0099. Peace. (35)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV, hot hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Ulica, NY 13504. ☐ 1007. (35)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs., professional, seeks black guy, indepen-

dent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ☐ 9099. ☐ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. De-Wayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated BGM seeking same. J.W.D., 1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

-Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Say, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, HIV+, 60 yr, masculine, average ht and wt, live in DC area, seeking GBM under 40, top or bottom, non-obese, for friendship and possible one-on-one relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. ☐ 1005. (37)

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

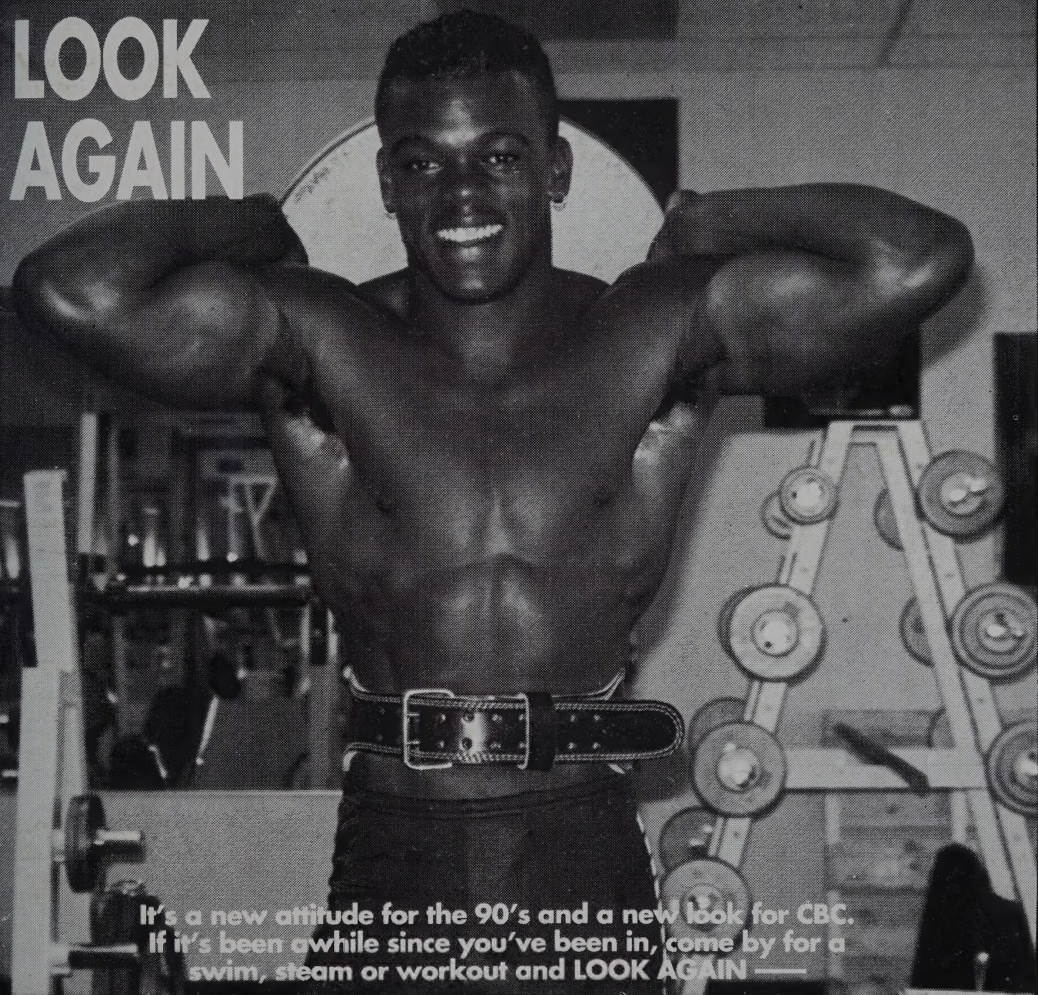
MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)



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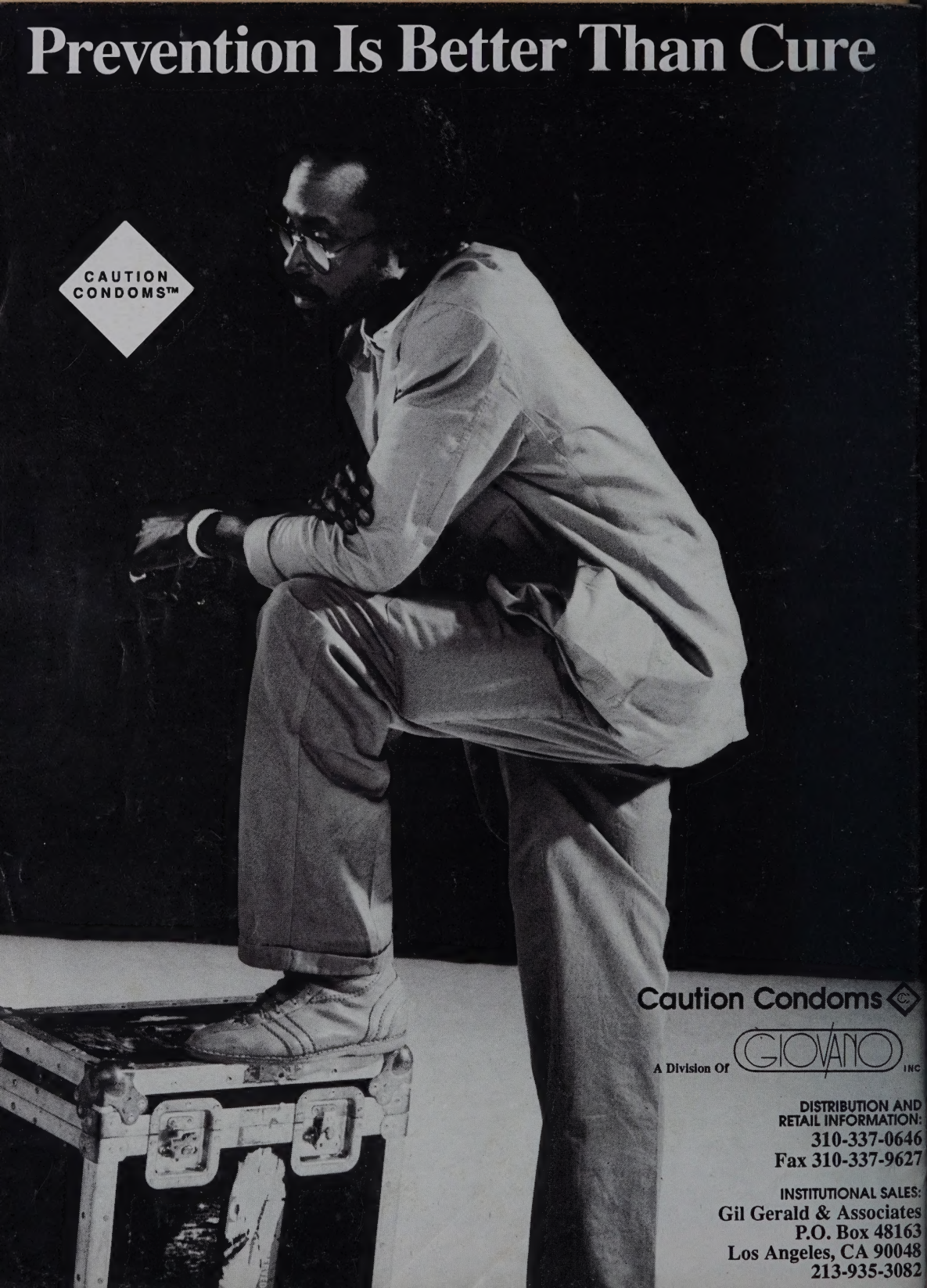
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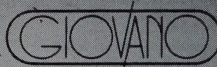
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